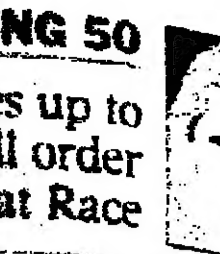






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‘I cannot say why some were left and some were killed...there were soldiers doing what they wanted’



Eyewitness Mark Ross tells how he saw his companions' bodies hacked to death with machetes

A SURVIVOR of the Ugandan forest kidnappings last night gave a graphic account of being forced to march for nine hours through the jungle and seeing the bodies of five of his companions who had been hacked to death with machetes.

Mark Ross, an American tour operator and pilot who flew his fellow survivors back to Kampala yesterday, was roused in the early hours of Monday by gunshots fired at his camp in the Bwindi National Park, known as the Impenetrable Forest, which is home to Uganda's mountain gorillas.

"It all happened very fast. There was not a lot of shooting: first one shot behind, then a brief flurry," he told a press conference at the American Embassy in Kampala. The rebel soldiers, armed with automatic weapons and grenades, came into the camp in groups of 15 to 20. Tourists from a nearby camp were also brought in. They were all questioned about their nationalities and occupations before their possessions were taken and they were marched off towards the Congolese border.

Mr Ross thought there were about 120 attackers in all, almost all of them armed, with a few left to carry supplies as the tourists were marched at speed over several ridges.

First one woman, then two others, were unable to keep up. The attackers said they would escort them to safety, but Mr Ross later came across the bodies of two of them.

"The women had been killed on the spot. It looked like one was raped prior to being killed," he said. He could not be sure of their nationalities, but one was an American.

At about midday, the attackers separated off three men, apparently at random: the American husband of one of the women who had been killed, a Briton and a New Zealander. Later he saw their bodies. "Their heads were crushed and there were deep slashes with pangas — machetes.

"I cannot say why some were left and some were killed. It was like there were small groups of soldiers doing what they wanted." Mr Ross was not able to say when or how the other three victims — two women and a man — met their deaths, pointing out that with up to 140 people moving in single file through the forest it was impossible to tell what was going on farther down the line. But he thought all had been murdered in the same way. Another survivor, Linda Adams, told CNN that the attackers had been careful to separate the hostages in groups according to their nationalities, suggesting that English-speakers were targeted.

At about four in the afternoon, they reached the border and most of the attackers melted away over the ridge, leaving only three men to guard the hostages. There was a last-minute attempt to take two tourists with them, but the attackers finally relented, and one fighter who tried to drag a woman with him was forced to back down.

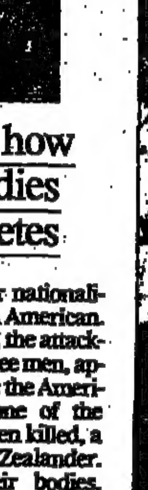
After a few minutes, the three guards also disappeared, leaving Mr Ross and his party of six survivors to find their way back down the trail. Before they left, the attackers gave him a note, saying that their aim was to destabilise Uganda, to cause economic chaos in the region and to let the world know there was a war on.

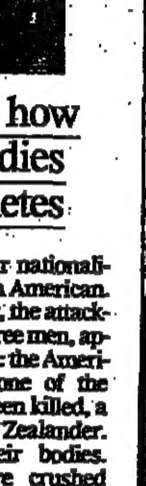
"They wrote down this two-page note and gave it to me — I guess that's why they let us all live," Mr Ross said, adding that the attackers had not treated the survivors badly, giving them water and allowing them to keep their shoes, "although they intimidated us some".

Forty minutes back down the path to the camp they came across units of the Ugandan army in pursuit.

"We showed them where they crossed the border. They wanted to open fire right there, which seemed to me to invite return fire. So I got my people moving and left."

Soon afterwards they found the women's bodies, before reaching the road and Mr Ross's plane at dusk.







A survivor of the jungle massacre talking on a mobile phone in the courtyard of the British High Commission in Kampala yesterday. Photographs by Richard Pohle

Messages on bodies tell of hate for the British

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN KAMPALA

HUTU rebels who bludgeoned and hacked to death eight tourists after kidnapping them from a gorilla safari camp attached notes to the bodies saying "Americans and British, we don't want you on our land. You support our enemy."

The attackers were specifically looking for Britons and Americans when they raided the Bwindi Park in Uganda, according to the manager of one of the five camps there.

Other survivors reported that tourists were separated according to nationality. The attackers demanded to know who had British or American passports and told the French being told to stand aside. One of the leaders then handed a note to Anne Peltier, France's Deputy Ambassador to Uganda, saying the Interahamwe were not happy with Americans and British because they preferred to support the Tutsis against the Hutus.

Four Ugandans were killed at the camp and 14 English-speaking tourists were then marched into the jungle, where the eight met their deaths.

There had been suggestions that they had died in the crossfire during a Ugandan Army rescue attempt. But, although the Army set off in pursuit, witnesses insisted there had been no rescue and no gunshots.

"They were brutally murdered under gruesome circumstances," a State Department official said. And the official spokesman James Foley added: "There was no crossfire."

An American government plane was sent to retrieve the bodies yesterday; the survivors — two Britons, a Canadian, a Swiss, a New Zealander and the American Mark Ross — were flown back to Kampala by Mr Ross on Monday morning.

Mr Ross, a 43-year-old Nairobi-based tour operator from Arkansas, could not find his keys, so he started his plane with his knife. "I put on classical music to slow everyone down," he said. "The mood was very, very sombre and there were a lot of tears when we touched down."

In a statement to the Ugandan Parliament yesterday, the Government strongly condemned what it called a barbaric terrorist attack, which it blamed squarely on the Interahame, a Rwandan Hutu militia implicated in the 1994 genocide of more than a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates. The militia has been based in the Congo for the past five years.

For President Museveni, who has been trying to build up Uganda's image of stability for years in the wake of the horrors of the regime of Idi Amin, the attack comes as a bitter blow.

It also highlights the problems he has been having with his Congolese neighbour. Ugandan and Rwandan troops are fighting in the Congo in support of rebels trying to overthrow the government of President Laurent Kabila. Mr Kabila, for his part, has tolerated the presence of Ugandan and Rwandan insurgents who are fighting in support of his forces.

The attack will also hit the country's tourism hard. The Bwindi National Park, also known as the Impenetrable Forest, is visited by thousands of tourists every year, who are hoping to see some of the 320 surviving Ugandan mountain gorillas. The money that this tourism brings in is crucial to those gorillas' continued survival.

Tribute to a kind-hearted son who loved life

BY ADRIAN LEE

ONE of the Britons killed by the rebels was named last night as Mark Lindgren, a 23-year-old graduate.

He was just more than two weeks into a three-month tour of Africa with London-based travel firm Acacia Expeditions when he was captured. The trip to Uganda was to be a holiday before concentrating on a career.

Mr Lindgren's girlfriend had hoped to join him on the trip of a lifetime when she had received her visa.

His parents, Ann and John, paid tribute to their son, a life-long Wolverhampton Wanderers fan with a keen interest in wildlife. He had obtained three As and graduated in French and Management Studies from Nottingham University last year. He has a sister, Emma, 28, who is a teacher in Cornwall.

Mr Lindgren's father, a chartered surveyor, said: "Mark was kind-hearted, generous, bright and loved life. He had a wonderful sense of humour and was loyal to his friends and family. He was respected by the people he worked with and he had a bright future ahead of him."

Peter Kellner, a journalist and their neighbour in St Albans, Hertfordshire, said the tragedy would hit the family hard. He said: "The Lindgrens are an exceptionally close-knit family. They are well-liked by their neighbours and many friends. We are all devastated by this news."

Acacia Expeditions said six of the dead were on its tour, including one of its company representatives. A further ten tourists and one crew member have returned to Kampala.

Mr Lindgren's MP, Kerry Pollard, said Mark was on a package tour run by a reputable travel company. "It was the holiday of a lifetime for him — he was looking forward to seeing things other people only see on TV. This has come as a complete shock."

The Foreign Office, which said the victims were hacked and bludgeoned to death, said the names of other victims would not be released until their bodies had been formally identified today and their relatives informed.

Two British survivors were under the care of doctors at the British High Commission in Kampala. Neither was thought to be injured, although they were said to be in a state of shock. Another Briton who escaped was also at the High Commission.



Graduate Mark Lindgren

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MASSACRE IN THE JUNGLE

SEAMUS CONLAN



Interahamwe Hutu guerrillas in 1994, when they launched the swiftest genocide the world has seen

RICHARD POHLE



An unidentified victim of the kidnapping is comforted in the grounds of the British High Commission in Kampala, the Ugandan capital, yesterday. Britain has now advised tourists not to visit the volatile border area

Hutus wage war in gorilla haven

Backpackers drawn to mountain zone of genocidal gunmen, writes Sam Kiley, Africa Correspondent

SITTING across a few feet of matted leaves and looking into the quizzical, almost human eyes of a male 20-stone silverback mountain gorilla, one could not help but feel that this magnificent creature was wondering why these puny facsimiles of his own kind were so bent on butchering each other.

The 600 remaining mountain gorillas on the Virunga range — where eight tourists, including four Britons, and four safari park staff were murdered by Hutu militias — have in the last five years been trapped at the centre of man's inhumanity to man.

The jungle canopies and mountain ranges which have become their last redoubt against marauding poachers have provided ideal cover for Interahamwe killer squads bent on "finishing the job" of the genocide of the Tutsis in Rwanda.

They are punishing the Ugandans for supporting the Tutsis, and English-speaking tourists because of a belief that their loss to the Tutsis was part of an anglophone conspiracy to take over French-speaking Central Africa.

The Bwindi Impenetrable National Park is just as its name suggests.

Thick tropical rainforest is broken only by animal paths where hundreds of Interahamwe fighters have set up bases to launch attacks on Tutsis in northwest Rwanda, southeast Uganda and the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

One would have to be suicidal to try to visit Congo's gorilla sanctuary just across the border from Bwindi, or the colony of gorillas in Rwanda, where the late Dian Fossey had her research centre made famous by the film *Gorillas In The Mist*, which starred Sigourney Weaver.

But until recently the Ugandan gorillas, numbering about 350, were considered a safe option for tourists spending thousands of pounds on the opportunity to see one of the world's great natural wonders in the wild.

Now, however, serious questions have to be asked as to why the area was considered safe. It was the main route taken by Tutsi rebels who left the Ugandan Army to form the Rwandan Patriotic Front when they invaded Rwanda in 1990.

It now provides a haven for their Hutu enemies.

On my visit to the gorilla sanctuary in what was then called Zaire, the sounds of mortar explosions drifted through the jungle canopy along with the mist as the gorillas chewed wild celery in 1992.

Two years later the Interahamwe and Rwanda's Hutu leadership launched the swiftest genocide the world has ever seen, killing an average of 37,500 people a day — mostly with clubs and machetes. A million were dispatched.

When the RPF drove the Hutus from power they fled west, past the Ruhengeri area of west Rwanda where the gorillas live, into Goma, Zaire.

There, as the international community spent more than £1.5 million a day to feed, clothe and educate the Hutus, calls for the arrest of their leaders went unheeded. Instead, using profits from inflated refugee figures, money from mysterious French backers, arms from Paris and weapons supplied by British arms dealers, the Interahamwe continued to train its men and equip them for an invasion of Rwanda.

The effect on the environment of the hundreds of thousands of people camped around Goma for two years was catastrophic. The newcomers cut down thousands of acres of the gorillas' habitat to build homes and cook food.

Their leadership moved into coffee estates, ruined them, and set up command centres in the crumbling remains.

In 1996 Rwanda, backed by Uganda, Tanzania and Burundi, and with the approval of the US, decided to clear the camps of the Interahamwe.

Three quarters of a million refugees returned home. But the hardcore fled west, where many were murdered by Tutsi fighters, or into the surrounding mountains — where the gorillas now try to survive with the killers in their midst.

In Uganda, the Hutus have been able to ally themselves with rebels opposing President Museveni and to attack vehicles and convoys.

Blending into the Hutu-populated countryside of Rwanda, they target the isolated Tutsi communities.

Rwanda and Uganda have increased security in their border areas because of the region's rich tourist potential. But their armies face an almost impossible task in combating a foe which can mount surprise attacks before melting back into the rainforest.

□ *Brazzaville:* A new rebel group in the Democratic Republic of Congo said it had captured the town of Bolobo, 215 miles north of Kinshasa on the Congo River. The Union of Republican Nationalists for Liberation said the town of 30,000, nominally controlled by President Kabila, fell without a shot being fired. *(AP)*

Holiday safety, page 15
Leading article, page 17

LINKS

www.fco.gov.uk/travel/ — Travel advice for British citizens from the Foreign Office.

www.ugandaweb.com/chico/chico4.htm — Home page of the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park

'Wicked' act appals Blair

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

TONY BLAIR yesterday described the kidnapping and killing of four Britons in Uganda as an act of wickedness "simply beyond belief".

Told of the tragedy during a visit to Italy, the Prime Minister issued a statement promising that the Government would do everything in its power to bring those responsible to justice.

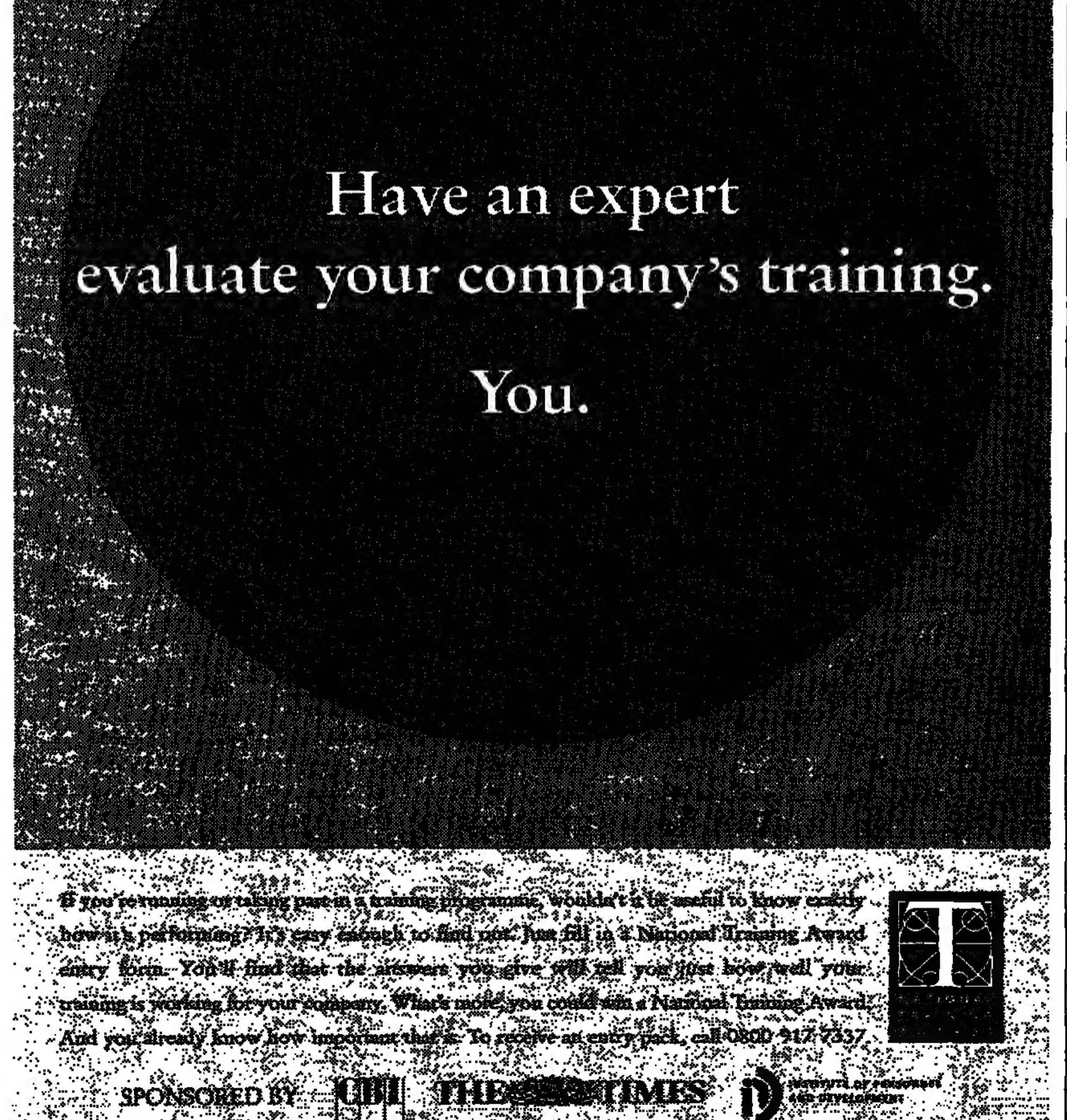
Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, told a shocked House of Commons that it was still not clear how the victims died. He said: "The whole House will wish to join me in expressing our deepest sympathies to their relatives and families."

He said that every effort would be made to achieve the survivors' rapid and safe return.

As soon as news of the kidnappings reached Kampala, the British High Commissioner had insisted that Ugandan troops should not take any action that might endanger the hostages' lives.



A female mountain gorilla forages in Uganda. About 350 are believed to be living in the country, and until recently, their habitat had been considered safe for tourists



Foreign Office and holiday firms disagree over who is to blame

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

TOURISM

ROBIN COOK last night angered travel companies by demanding that they take greater responsibility in deciding whether to withdraw from troublespots.

As tour operators yesterday cancelled or re-routed about 1,000 holidays to Uganda and neighbouring countries after receiving specific advice from the Foreign Office, the travel trade accused it of being too vague normally and not detailed enough.

The Foreign Secretary told the Commons that tour companies should not try to use Foreign Office advice as an indemnity against their own responsibilities. He said that firms should use "their own discretion and judgment and provide frank and clear warnings for those who travel with them".

As government officials warned tourists to avoid Uganda's gorilla region, Mr Cook's comments enraged a travel industry that has been increasingly critical of Foreign Office advice. Tour operators and travel agents accuse the Foreign Office of offering advice that is not related specifically to the area at greatest risk.

Two of the main companies involved in the region, Acacia Expeditions and Abercrombie and Kent, have about 500 tourists in Uganda, although very few were in the gorilla region.

Strict limits are imposed on the number of passes for visiting the gorilla region and tourists generally include the area as part of an African safari lasting up to eight weeks and costing up to £5,000.

Refunds are likely to be paid if holidays have to be cancelled.

"I think Mr Cook has a bit of a cheek," said Simon Bunce, legal adviser to the Association of British Travel Agents (Abta).

"Many tour operators have far more detailed information from their own representatives than is offered by the Foreign Office, who may only have someone based in the capital." Mr Bunce said that travel companies often had to follow Foreign Office advice even when it was known that areas of a country were not at risk. He added that one couple sued an operator successfully after they were brought home from the Comoros Islands in the Indian Ocean after an attempted coup.

Although the Foreign Office had advised them against travelling to the islands, a court found that the operator was wrong to withdraw the couple and awarded them £1,400 in compensation.

Several leading operators were incensed last year when the Foreign Office advised against travel to Israel during airstrikes against Iraq. Holidays in the Red Sea resort of Eilat were cancelled for thousands of tourists, although the southern town was not considered to be at risk.

The travel industry has become increasingly concerned about the lack of resources, and Baroness Symons, the Foreign Office Minister, held a meeting with senior industry figures last week.

She was told that the three full-time staff in the advisory department were insufficient to deal with the 1,000 advice notices put out by the Foreign Office last year.

Sue Ockwell, a spokeswoman for Acacia Expeditions, which had tourists on the Ugandan trip, called last night for the Foreign Office to communicate more closely with other governments before offering advice.

"We were amazed to hear that Australia has been advising against travelling to the gorilla region for some time. I would have thought that there could be some communication between governments when they are sending tourists to the same area."

Some tour operators have called on the Foreign Office to grade countries according to the level of risk, although Abta fears that this could lead to information becoming even more vague.

Tour operators feel they must follow Foreign Office advice, believing that they would be liable if any tourist was injured but had not been warned of the dangers.

"But the advice must be clear," said Mr Bunce. "If it is unclear, then a client is likely to argue with the travel firm over the interpretation. That leads to problems that could be avoided by clearer advice."

The travel industry, while acknowledging the seriousness of the incident in Uganda, emphasised that it was an unusual occurrence, even for the most intrepid holidaymakers.

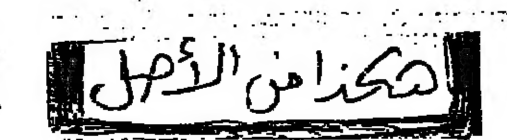
"We hope it won't put people off the idea of having an adventure holiday because the majority of them are safe," Keith Betton of Abta told Sky television.

Uganda was doing its best to ensure that every part of the country was safe for tourists, Professor George Kirya, the Ugandan High Commissioner in London, said yesterday.

But he said that visitors would have to decide for themselves where they felt safe to travel.

Free camp in remote areas, trek to see the gorillas and witness the lives and culture of local villages. This challenging 28 days will reward you with an incredible experience.

A holiday advert promoting adventure in Uganda





MASSACRE IN THE JUNGLE

How death invaded safari paradise

Daniel McGrory traces the chain of events that led to the killing of eight tourists in a carefully planned attack by Hutu rebels



Buhoma Camp in Uganda's Bwindi National Park, which is popular with Western tourists on gorilla tracking holidays, was one of the sites overrun by the Hutu rebels

THE ambush began before dawn on Monday when scores of Hutu rebels swarmed across the border into the Ugandan rainforest that had become a magnet for holidaymakers seeking adventure.

The raid was clearly carefully planned. One group of tribesmen moved swiftly towards the village of Butogota, firing wildly in the air, in what was a diversionary attack.

The rest of the rebels surged through the jungle clearing towards three safari camps in the game park where most of the tourists were still sleeping. It took only minutes for the whole area to be overrun as up to 150 members of the notorious Interahamwe death squads descended on the fenced-off compound in the Bwindi National Park.

The camps are deliberately corralled within a few hundred yards of each other for security and all sit close to the main lodge at the edge of the park. They range from one-man tents popular with teenage backpackers to wooden cabins set in the hillside, at the top of which sits a luxury dwelling known as the honeymoon tent.

Local rangers escorting the tour groups were easily brushed aside by the tribesmen, who shot at the startled guards with their semi-automatic AK47 rifles and hacked at them with machetes. The chief warden at Bwindi was shot dead with three of his rangers. Some of the rebels jabbed at the dying rangers with spears as the main force surged inside the swing-gate at the Buhoma Camp entrance.

They tore through the administration building, where tourists register and collect their permits to track the gorillas through the early morning mists of the Virunga mountains. What the Hutu gang could not steal it burnt. Screaming at the tops of their voices, the rebels moved along the narrow track that cuts into the lush, green hillside.

Less than a hundred yards from the main gate is a clearing where overland tour parties pitch their tents. The groups of young backpackers camping there had travelled from Nairobi, through the Great Rift Valley and onto the source of the Nile before reaching what is still known locally as the Impenetrable Forest.

As the tourists were dragged from their tents, the rebels set light to their four-wheel-drive vehicles. The terrified trekkers were forced to stand in a jungle clearing in whatever clothes they were wearing. Most were barefoot as the rebels menaced them with spears and machetes, demanding that they hand over their watches and any money.

While some of the tribesmen ransacked the tents and huts for valuables like cameras and binoculars, others pointed their AK47s at the holidaymakers, demanding to know their nationalities. In faltering French, they asked who was carrying British or American passports.

After being herded together in the camp known as Lake Katangira, they were pushed further along the track that sweeps up the hillside.

Scores of gunmen had already taken over the African Pearls Safari Homestead and were forcing more holidaymakers out of their cabins. One woman who was crying loudly was knocked to the ground, nearly unconscious, with a blow from the handle of a machete.

The same selection procedure was carried out, with Britons and Americans being held aside from the rest.

One of those captured, Anne Peltier, France's Deputy Ambassador to Uganda, tried reasoning with one of the rebel leaders, pleading with him to release the women and children. While she tried to negotiate their freedom, gunmen charged the Gorilla Forest Camp, which is run by a local branch of the Abercrombie and Kent tour company.

> ‘One of the gang's leaders kept shouting that he was looking for Anglo-Saxons’

Rebels ripped open the seven permanent tents, grabbing armfuls of looted belongings and forcing the occupants to join the rest of the bewildered and frightened band of international tourists. They fought with each other for the honour of reaching the highest tent — the honeymoon suite — and dragged out a young couple who clung to each other.

Survivors told how one of the gang's leaders kept shouting that he was looking for what he described as "Anglo-Saxons". French tourists were told to stand to one side. The leader then handed Mme Peltier a message "to inform the world that the Interahamwe were not happy with Americans and British because they have preferred to support the Tutsi ethnic minority against the ethnic Hutu majority".

The gunmen then picked out 14 hostages and forced them out of the camp and out of sight of their fellow holidaymakers on barely marked tracks through the jungle. Their selection was as random as their attack. In this group were not only Britons and Americans but a Swiss, a Canadian and New Zealanders.

The 17 they left behind stood abandoned in the camp, crying and holding onto each other. They included two Americans who had managed to crawl out of their tents and hide in the undergrowth during the initial ambush.

Linda Adams, from California, had been caught by a group of gunmen who pushed her roughly in front of them, ordering her to move quicker. She managed to fake an asthma attack and collapsed in a heap, coughing and clutching her chest. The gunmen argued about what to do with her.

Some wanted to force her to continue with the march. Others argued she was slowing them down and should be left. By now the majority of rebels had moved on, hustling their hostages to quicken their pace. Ms Adams said: "They were treating us as well as could be expected. We were sitting down under guns ... not necessarily pointing at us, but they all had guns."

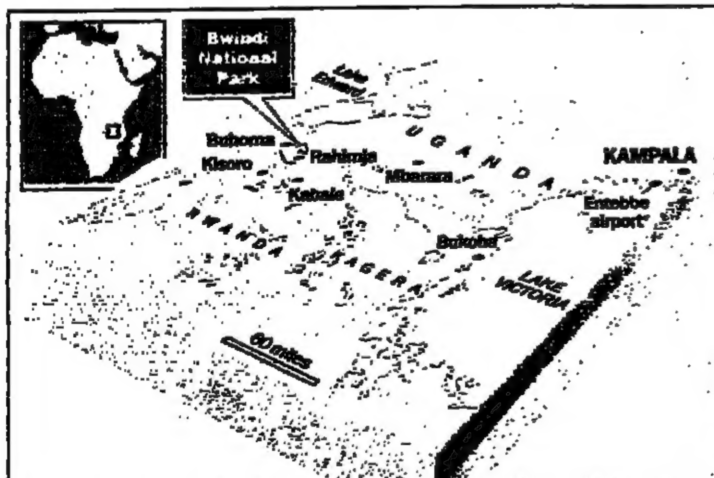
Those on the march had no idea where they were heading. The climb was arduous and some hostages, who were barefoot, could barely stand.

There is a Ugandan Army base barely 12 miles from the tourist camps and soldiers were trying to track the kidnappers through the dense jungle undergrowth.

After ten hours of the forced march, the rebels began arguing amongst themselves. Two grabbed hold of a Frenchwoman and were about to kill her when her daughter grabbed hold of them and pleaded for mercy. The rebels seem to relent and appeared to be taking a group of women back down the mountain, in the direction they had come from.

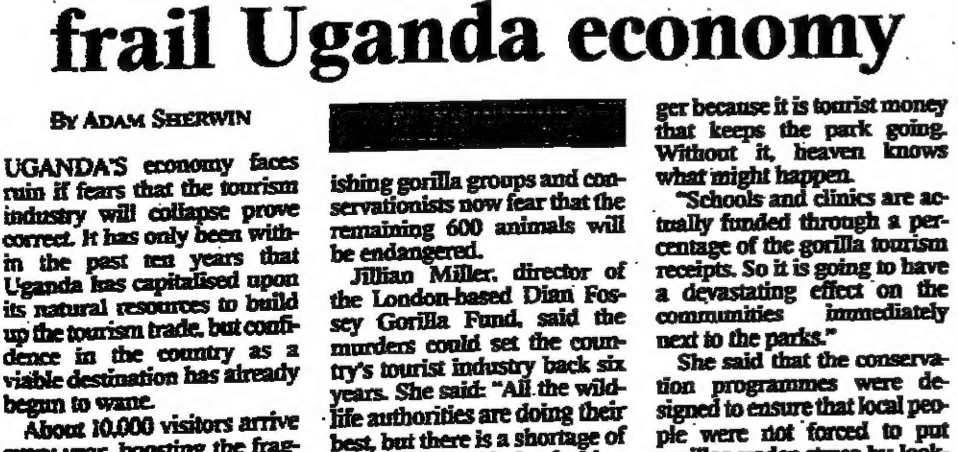
Minutes later an area that was supposed to be safe for tourists became a killing ground.

Yesterday was not the first attack on tourists. Last August six holidaymakers who had crossed from Uganda into the Democratic Republic of Congo to track the gorillas were attacked and kidnapped by Rwandan Hutu rebels. Three are still missing, but Ugandan authorities believe that they are still alive.



150 Rwandan Hutu rebels raid three camp sites in the Bwindi National Park at dawn. In total, 31 tourists are kidnapped including six Britons, three Americans, three New Zealanders, a Canadian and an Australian. 17 tourists escape the kidnapping and return by US jet to Kampala.

Eight of the remaining hostages, four Britons, two New Zealanders and two Americans are killed by the Hutu rebels. Six are rescued by the Ugandan Army. Five hostages are found dead at the scene of the rescue attempt, the bodies of the other three are discovered nearby and taken to Entebbe airport.



Travel fears may harm frail Uganda economy

By Adam Sherwin

UGANDA'S economy faces ruin if fears that the tourism industry will collapse prove correct. It has only been within the past ten years that Uganda has capitalised upon its natural resources to build up the tourism trade, but confidence in the country as a viable destination has already begun to wane.

About 10,000 visitors arrive every year, boosting the fragile economy by about £5 million. Uganda has used rising tourism figures to encourage investment from Western nations. The Ugandan Government believes that investment is crucial if it is to combat the severe poverty across the nation.

The wildlife consultant Ian Redmond yesterday cancelled an expedition to the region by a group of British tourists this month. "It is very disappointing, but there is nothing else I could have done," he said. "It is an absolute tragedy that the militia activity in Rwanda has spilt over into Uganda."

Tourism revenues are used to protect the safety of diminishing gorilla groups and conservationists now fear that the remaining 600 animals will be endangered.

Jillian Miller, director of the London-based Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, said the murders could set the country's tourist industry back six years. She said: "All the wildlife authorities are doing their best, but there is a shortage of money. This kind of thing could place the gorillas in danger because it is tourist money that keeps the park going. Without it, heaven knows what might happen.

"Schools and clinics are actually funded through a percentage of the gorilla tourism receipts. So it is going to have a devastating effect on the communities immediately next to the parks."

She said that the conservation programmes were designed to ensure that local people were not forced to put gorillas under stress by looking for food and fuel in the game parks.

Uganda boasts other attractions for tourists. It has one of the biggest collections of birdlife in Africa, as well as the Mufumbiro volcanoes and the river Nile.

Although tourism has been an industry encouraged by President Museveni, agriculture remains the traditional backbone of the economy and employs about 80 per cent of the active population.

Government controls on the coffee and cotton industries have also been loosened and private exporters granted licences.



Museveni: encouraged gorilla tourism industry

'Wicked' act appals Blair

day firms
o blame

Howard finds eloquence no asset in the credibility game



WHAT is it about Michael Howard? Few of those who regularly write up the performances of the chief Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs do so without a faint sense of guilt.

We rarely praise him: we usually mock him: we draw attention to that "night creature" quality that Ann Widdecombe once described, that six o'clock shadow made flesh: time and again we say that he lacks credibility, detracts from whatever cause he espouses, or scares the children. All this is fair comment: journalists have not invented the reactions he inspires.

And yet he's so damn good. Few can match the combination of energy, lucidity and intellect that Howard commands. There is no shortage of rent-a-quote Tory spokesmen who make a lot of noise, most of it incoherent: nor any shortage of more retiring people with better minds, like Peter Lilley. But for tireless persistence with a well-marshalled argument, Howard is matchless. He just keeps pushing and he always makes his case.

Yesterday he was at it again, obviously with a bad cold, making a fine speech on the Foreign Affairs Select Committee's scathing report on the handling of the Sierra Leone affair. Howard's rhetoric had a sort of relentless logic. He was well-briefed, with facts and judgments at his fingertips. He was clear, he was poised and he was eloquent. He was probably right, for heaven's sake! But he will hardly be credited in this morning's press.

Twenty-one years ago, the executive of the Conservative Association in West Derbyshire, a safe Conservative seat, was interviewing a shortlist of four for the position of prospective parliamentary candidate.

Among those four were Michael Howard, who was then in his 30s, and your sketchwriter. I won. Since that contest three people have told me, on different occasions, that Howard made a better speech than I did — probably the best of all the candidates. Why, then, did he lose? The answer has always been the same: "He sounded too much like a barrister." He was so fluent and smooth that his audience began to doubt whether he believed what he was saying.

I now wonder whether this is unfair. I do not know Mr Howard well, but my opinion is changing. I suspect (sometimes fear) that he really does believe what he says. He has rather stronger ideals in public life than most of his colleagues, though he can speak to a brief, like any minister. Friends say Howard is personally committed (to a degree uncommon in politics) to some of the abiding causes in his Commons career.

Many novels and plays have dealt with the theme of inarticulate passion: men and women too uneducated to communicate the depth their feelings: convinced of some great truth but incapable of arguing it through. And audiences love a rough-hewn diamond. The figure of the noble savage or dumb hero has always captured the popular imagination.

But is there, I wonder, an even more tragic figure than the poor tongue-tied brute who cannot find words to express his conviction? Is it the over-educated, smooth-talking bastard who cannot help sounding like a smooth-talking bastard, even when he really means it? Is this not the ultimate tragedy — an awkward idealist trapped in the body of svelte Welsh barrister, passion which, finding too fluent expression, is scorned as rhetoric?

And is that tragic figure Michael Howard?

Dome may run out of money, warns auditor

By Philip Webster, political editor

LABOUR MPs will today seek guarantees that the Government will not bail out the £758 million Millennium Dome after a report from the public spending watchdog raised "significant" doubts about its ability to pay its way.

In a paper described as "dynamite" by one MP, the Comptroller and Auditor General suggests that the Millennium Experience, the company responsible for the Dome, may need help from the Government or the Millennium Commission. Some £400 million is already coming from the National Lottery, leaving almost as much again to be found.

The company aims to raise £150 million in sponsorship and just under £200 million from ticket sales, merchandise and catering.

In a Commons motion to be tabled today, more than 30 Labour MPs demand a government statement — in the light of their "grave concern" about the Comptroller's findings — that "no further public funds" will be made available.

The Millennium Experience said last night the fears were misplaced and that it was completely confident there would be no need for taxpayers' money. There had been a "dramatic" change in the picture since the latest accounts of the Millennium Commission were published last September. The Comptroller's report was based on these.

The Comptroller, Sir John Bourn, completed his report in October but it was not placed in the Commons library until last month. Sir John makes plain that the company's own auditors, Ernst and Young, had drawn attention to inherent uncertainty about financial projections.

He says: "It is clear that there remains significant uncertainty as to the ultimate source and quantum for supplementary finance that may be necessary should income levels in particular not measure up to budget and forecast.



"I observe from the [Millennium] commission's monitoring of the company's financial position that cashflow phasing might give rise to problems for the company and the commission in 1999. In order for the Millennium Experience to be completed it may therefore be necessary for the commission or Government to identify ways of assisting the company on this matter."

The commission would not be able to offer more lottery money to the Experience without parliamentary authority. However, it is prepared to allow it to have some £50 million to help with cash flow before the Dome opens.

Last night the Millennium Experience said that since the last commission accounts were prepared it had secured a further £58 million towards the target £150 million in sponsorship. With that figure up to £120 million, there were further offers of £15 million and negotiations under way about the remaining £15 million.

It added that the revenue targets had been based on the Dome attracting 12 million visitors but recent polls suggested at least two million more visitors. "We are committed to delivering this project without taxpayers' money."

OWEN HUMPHREYS



The Duke of York meeting crew members of the frigate *HMS Boxer*, on a goodwill mission to Ho Chi Minh City, after arriving yesterday for a five-day official visit to Vietnam. Earlier he laid a wreath at the mausoleum of Ho Chi Minh, leader of the north during the Vietnam war. He also had tea with the chairman of the city people's committee in the ornate splendour of the municipal hall, once the residence of French governors.

Officials expose art tax dodge

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall editor

OWNERS of national treasures are reneging on pledges to open them to the public in return for substantial tax benefits from the Government.

A National Audit Office survey has found that that just 15 per cent of properties and artworks deemed to be "national heritage assets" are seen by members of the public each year, and that more than a quarter of the visits have taken more than two months to arrange.

People who own such properties are allowed to defer payment of any inheritance tax if they agree to conserve and protect the property and to provide reasonable public access. But if an owner breaches his agreement with the Inland Revenue, sells the asset or decides to leave the scheme, tax must be paid.

Some £760 million in tax payments have been deferred under the scheme over the past 15 years, but some owners deliberately make it difficult for people to view their art or property.

In one case an Inland Revenue official spent six weeks to arrange a viewing of six portraits given as a gift to the nation in lieu of tax.

Lawrence informants relocated

SCOTLAND Yard has rehoused informants who helped police in the Stephen Lawrence case and were mistakenly identified by Sir William Macpherson in his report last week (*Stewart Tendler writes*).

Yard sources yesterday confirmed that a number of people who gave police information about the murder had been moved from Eltham, south London, to new addresses, and that others had been given police protection.

Many of the informants named in the report lived on an estate linked to the five men later accused of the murder.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Phone-tap rule lets IRA escape justice

IRA leaders are escaping justice because phone tap evidence is not allowed in court cases, the former legal adviser to MI5 told MPs yesterday. David Bickford told the Home Affairs Select Committee that international terrorists and gangsters involved in organised crime were also avoiding justice because of the failure of governments to act together. Mr Bickford called for changes to the law, the amalgamation of MI5 and MI6 and the creation of an international court to deal with worldwide crime in an effort to curb organised crime, which he said was "out of control".

Sniper accusation

A man was named in Belfast Crown Court yesterday as the IRA sniper who shot Lance Bombardier Stephen Restorick, the last British soldier killed in Northern Ireland. Bernard McGinn, 41, on trial for the murder, allegedly told police he was the back-up man and one of his co-accused, Michael Caraher, 31, was the gunman. Judgment was reserved.

Lorries to get priority

Lorries are to be given priority over cars on some urban roads, dual carriageways and motorways, John Reid, the Transport Minister, announced. The lorry lanes are among a range of measures to reduce the £15 billion cost to business of traffic jams and make the eventual introduction of motorway and road tolls more palatable to transport operators.

Murderer on the run

A convicted killer who stole silverware from the home of Baroness Thatcher when she was Prime Minister was on the run last night after walking out of Ford Open Prison in West Sussex. Thomas Tangney, 49, described by police as extremely violent, was jailed for life in 1980 for shooting dead a 61-year-old woman during a raid on her home.

Solicitors sue society

Solicitors are to take the Law Society to court after its governing body ruled that they cannot obtain their negligence insurance cover on the open market. The society's council voted by 32 to 29 in favour of keeping the compulsory mutual fund that sets insurance rates for all solicitors, despite a huge rise in premiums because of negligence claims.

'Nazis almost killed me with the Jews'

Woman tells trial that she begged for her life as accused stood by and did nothing. Tim Jones reports

A WOMAN of 73 told the Old Bailey yesterday how she fell to her knees and kissed the boots of a German soldier as she pleaded for her life because she had been mistaken for a Jew.

As she begged to be spared, Anthony Sawoniuk, the man accused of helping to carry out Nazi genocide, did nothing to help although he knew her well.

Sedora Yakimuk, 73, told Britain's first war crimes trial that she was a girl of 16 when 2,900 Jews were massacred in the village of Domachevo in Belarus. Her family lived there and owned a cow and a horse. She said that while she was reaping wheat in a field she had injured her arm with a sickle and her mother bandaged the wound with a rag after treating it with iodine.

The iodine had seeped through the bandage leaving a yellow stain which was similar to the colour of the patches the Jews were forced to wear.

Days after the main massacre, she said, she was walking down a road when she encountered Mr Sawoniuk, who was accompanied by a German soldier.

"They saw me and started shouting 'Jew, Jew' to make *me stop. They* got hold of me and started dragging me away to be shot. I was crying and fell to my knees and kissing the feet of the German, telling them I was not a Jew."

She added: "I was on my knees explaining I was not a Jew and pleading for my life. Although Andrusha [Mr Sawoniuk] knew me well, he did nothing to protect me."

Mrs Yakimuk, who said Mr Sawoniuk's wife was godmother to the child of her older sister, said that when the German pulled off the bandage and saw what had happened he let her go.

In cross-examination by William Clegg, QC, for the defence, Mrs Yakimuk agreed she had never seen people being beaten or shot. Mrs Yakimuk, who has lived all of her life in the area, said that before the Nazi invasion in 1941 there had been no anti-Semitic tension in the community.

Local peasants, she said, used to travel to Domachevo to exchange dairy produce for white flour, pickled fish and sweets. She said: "Before the war, the relationship between us was excellent."

Another witness, Galina Puchkina, 68, said that on the day of the main massacre in the town, which occurred in 1942 during Yom Kippur, she attended as a girl of 11 a service at the Roman Catholic Church with her younger sister.

She said that during the service a German officer and an interpreter entered the church and ordered the congregation outside. There they were forced to witness groups of Jews from the ghetto being herded together and ordered to strip. "They had yellow badges sewn onto the front and back of their clothes. They were of all ages, from the very old to young children.

"I could see people crying. They were all being taken to their death by the local police and the gendarmerie. They were all ordered to undress and were all naked."

Mrs Puchkina said that after the Jews had been marched out of her sight towards the forest, she heard the sound of machinegun fire and never saw them again.

Later, she alleged, at a time when Mr Sawoniuk had become the commander of the local police force, she and her family fled to the forest after being told they could be shot because of their suspected support for partisans.

Mr Sawoniuk, 77, a former British Rail ticket inspector of Bermondsey, South London, denies four charges of murder.

The trial continues.



Sedora Yakimuk Bailey yesterday: she told the court that Mr Sawoniuk saw German soldiers dragging her away to be shot

Boy of 8 'lured to his death by bus driver'

By Paul Wilkinson

A BOY of eight was "befriended, groomed and seduced" before being murdered by a bus driver who had picked him up on his regular route, a jury heard yesterday.

The driver, Darren Vickers, gave Jamie Lavis special treats during the journey, allowing him to sit in the driver's seat and change the destination boards.

After the boy's disappearance in May 1997, Vickers, 28, gained the confidence of the child's parents, apparently becoming so engrossed in helping them that he was sacked for missing work, Manchester Crown Court was told.

Jamie's body was found five months later, dismembered and hidden with some of his clothing in a wood near a golf course. Vickers, from Ashton-under-Lyne, Manchester, denies abducting and murdering him.

Brian Leveson QC, for the prosecution, told the court that Jamie had spent the day of his death, a bank holiday, on Vickers's bus. "The Crown allege that Jamie was befriended, groomed and effectively seduced by Darren Vickers who, at the end of his shift, took him off in his motor car and at some place murdered him," he said.

Mr Leveson said that the boy had been allowed to change gears, give out tickets, open the doors and count cash. Security videos at the Ashton bus garage recorded him five times during the day.

After the boy's disappearance, Mr Leveson said, Vickers "ingratiated himself on Jamie's family and became a vigorous media campaigner in the search for Jamie, such that they became his most energetic supporters when the police investigation focused on him".

He said that Vickers, who used a radio scanner to monitor the police search for Jamie and arrive at the scenes of reported sightings before police, had confessed his involvement in the boy's death to a friend, and then to another prisoner after his arrest.

Vickers later told police that Jamie's death was accidental. He said that he had lashed out at the boy when he grabbed some of the ticket money, causing him to fall backwards and hit his head on a luggage rack.

But Mr Leveson said: "The Crown do not accept for one moment that what he said about how Jamie came to die is the truth ... Certain it is that the body was dismembered by someone because experts on wildlife provide evidence that animals were not responsible for the extensive loss of bones."

The trial continues.

Darren Vickers, above, was obsessed with the search for Jamie Lavis



Couple jailed for torturing child

By Simon de Bruxelles, West of England Correspondent

A MAN and a woman were jailed yesterday for imprisoning and torturing a boy aged 12. They had inflicted more than 130 injuries on him.

At Bournemouth Crown Court, Judge Patrick Hooten jailed the man for seven years and the woman for three. Children's charities later criticised the sentences as very lenient.

A social worker had visited a house in Poole, Dorset, looking for the boy, who had not attended school. Told he was ill, the officer went away without seeing him. An independent child care agency is to review the background to the case.

The man, who has previous convictions, admitted actual bodily harm; the woman admitted three similar charges. Both admitted cruelty and false imprisonment between last March 11 and April 27.

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Don't die of embarrassment, cancer experts say

A simple test at home could cut the toll from bowel disease, reports Ian Murray

TWO pilot schemes for a pioneering screening programme for bowel cancer that could save thousands of lives a year were approved yesterday. The aim is to overcome the embarrassment that prevents many people from seeking medical help for the condition until it is too late.

Bowel or colorectal cancer kills 20,000 men and women a year in Britain, making it second only to lung cancer as the most common form of the disease; yet most could be saved if they had an early diagnosis. More than 30,000 cases of colorectal cancer are diagnosed every year and 93 per cent of deaths occur in people aged over 55. The former England football captain Bobby Moore and the actress Audrey Hepburn were among the victims of the disease.

The pilot schemes will cover 400,000 people in Coventry, Warwickshire, and Tayside, Grampian and Fife during the next two years. The £5 million programme will be the first of its kind in Europe when it starts in the autumn.

Everyone aged between 50 and 69 living in the pilot areas will be sent a simple kit that will enable them to take a faecal sample in the privacy of their home. The sample is then sent to a laboratory for testing and those with a trace of blood will be recalled for further tests to find out if pre-cancerous cells are responsible.

The Health Department hopes that at least 60 per cent of those sent the sample kit will take the trouble to send it back. There will be a two-year evaluation programme to see if screening does cut the death rate from the disease. If it proves successful, the programme will be extended to the rest of the country. Announcing the programme, Tessa Jowell, the Health Minister, said: "Many of the 20,000 who die could have been saved if their cancer had been found earlier but many suffer in silence, too embarrassed to tell their partners or even their doctors. But, if it is caught early, colorectal cancer is one of the most curable of all cancers."

The Cancer Research Campaign welcomed the programme but said it was worried that too many people would still be too embarrassed to participate. "For too long the British public has quite literally been dying of embarrassment and we strongly urge people to back the screening project and help to put an end to this needless waste of life," Gordon McVie, director general of the campaign, said. "We believe that with early detection and treatment most of the people who die each year from the disease could be saved."

Sunbed clients may be paying with their lives

By Ian Murray, medical correspondent

SUNBEDS can kill, the Health Education Authority declared yesterday. With up to three million people using them every year, the authority says that sunbeds could be responsible for a very high incidence of the most dangerous form of skin cancer.

The authority have begun a poster campaign showing the scars left by surgery to remove cancers caused by sunbathing. Although it conducts a similar campaign each year, it is worried that the message of the dangers of sunbathing are too often disregarded. Local authorities are being asked to phase out sunbeds from leisure and health centres as part of a skin cancer prevention policy.

"We know that young men and women are aware of the dangers of the sun but still regard a tan as attractive," Christopher New, the campaign manager, said. Those aged 16 to 24 are keenest on getting bronzed and 15 per cent of them, about 800,000, have at least one sunbed session a year.

Even though 40,000 people are found to have the disease every year and the rates double every decade, the authority says that people are often unaware of the dangers or ignore the warnings. Many of those who do know that too much sunshine is dangerous do not realise that sunbeds are just as bad.

Ultraviolet radiation emitted by sunbeds is similar to that from the sun, which is responsible for most skin cancer. Half an hour on a sunbed can expose you to as much radiation as a day on the beach, according to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

Apart from the risk of cancer, sunbed tanning can cause burning, skin dryness and itching, a bumpy rash and eye irritation or conjunctivitis.

Beverley Dodds from Liverpool, a former model who used to help to sell sunbeds, says that she developed Bowen's disease: flat, scaly skin on the hands and face that can become cancerous. She is certain that she developed the illness as a result of overusing a sunbed.

Apart from cancer, other long-term effects of too much sunning include premature ageing of the skin, blistering and cataracts. The greater the exposure, the greater the risk.

John Hawk, consultant dermatologist at St Thomas' Hospital, London, said this was building up trouble for the future. "Skin cancers can take 20 years to develop and the sunbed industry is still relatively young," he said. "There are already cases of early skin cancer in people who have frequently used sunbeds and my concern is that in the next few years we will see a substantial increase in skin cancers and ageing in people who regularly use them."

The Sunbed Association said that using a sunbed sensibly in a controlled environment was a more responsible approach to getting a suntan than overexposure to sunlight.

A statement said that all 700 operator and hirer members of the association worked to a strict code of practice. This required health checks and a skin analysis, and the number of sessions recorded and monitored for each customer. All manufacturer members had to ensure that their sunbeds met European standards.

MATTHEW FEARN

Ian Botham ready for another walk to help leukaemia sufferers like Callum Williams



Botham to hit the road again

IAN BOTHAM is to walk the length of Britain again this autumn in aid of leukaemia research.

The former England cricketer will start his 886-mile trek from John o'Groats to Land's End on October 14, hoping to finish in 34 days. It will be his eighth epic walk for the cause, adding to the £3.3 million he has raised for the Leukaemia Research Fund.

He said yesterday that, because of logistical difficulties, this big walk would be his last, although he would continue raising funds for leukaemia research. "It's becoming very hard to put together — there are problems with the volume of traffic. Local authorities and police have been very helpful in the previous walks; you can only ask for that help and generosity so many times," Botham said. "My interest in leukaemia research will carry on until leukaemia is beaten — then I will move on to something else."

In 1985, Botham raised £1.1 million for the fund by walking the length of Britain. Since then, he has undertaken six similar hikes — including his celebrated retracing of Hannibal's route over the Alps in 1988.

Yesterday Debbie Donison, of South London, whose nine-year-old son Callum has leukaemia, said: "I think Ian's brilliant. He's done so much for leukaemia research."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Oyston in rape claim settlement

Owen Oyston, the businessman jailed for rape, has reached an out-of-court settlement with the former model he was convicted of attacking.

He agreed terms with the 23-year-old woman after more than 24 hours of legal negotiations at the High Court in Birmingham. The woman, whose name cannot be published, had brought a claim for damages, alleging that she had been left with permanent psychological damage after the attack seven years ago.

Oyston, 65, is owner of Blackpool Football Club and is believed to be worth about £40 million. He was jailed for six years in 1996 by Liverpool Crown Court. The settlement, approved by Mr Justice Smedley, meant that Oyston's victim, who was 16 at the time of the attack, was spared having to relive the ordeal in giving evidence.

Suspects freed

Irish police freed two men questioned about the Real IRA bombing in Omagh that killed 29 people. A man and a woman remain under arrest. Another man has been charged with conspiracy and belonging to an illegal organisation.

Lecturers' deal

College lecturers and the Association of Colleges announced a deal to end a six-year dispute over pay and conditions. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to national pay bargaining and agreed to talks on a range of issues.

Making a point

Plans for a 400ft millennium spire in the centre of Dublin have been approved despite strong public opposition. The illuminated monument will be built in O'Connell Street on the site of Nelson's Pillar, which was blown up in 1966.

Hunger strike bill

Barry Horne, the animal rights campaigner jailed for string of arson attacks, ran up a bill of £11,000 for hospital treatment during his hunger strike last year. The York NHS Trust wants the Home Office to pay most of the cost.

Bainbridge win

Beryl Bainbridge has won the £10,000 W.H. Smith Literary Award for *Master Georgie*, set in the Crimean War. John Carey, chairman of the judges, said: "Haunting, poetic, funny and nightmarish, it catches the madness of war."

Titanic search

A stained glass window made as a tribute to Frederick Humby, a former Barnardo's boy who died on the *Titanic* after helping passengers into the lifeboats, is being sought by the charity. It was in storage in 1969 but is now missing.

Flying visits

Record numbers of North American birds are wintering in Britain because of global warming. Fifteen varieties have been sighted, including the green-winged teal, black brent goose, pied-billed grebe and American herring gull.

District nurses struggle with growing workload

By Our Medical Correspondent

THE district nurse, a familiar feature of British life regarded with affection and humour, is a threatened species. A report out today describes an ageing and dwindling profession struggling with an increasing workload.

More than a quarter of the 13,500 qualified nurses are over 50 and half intend to retire before they reach 60, says the Audit Commission. Their average age is 45, compared with 39 for the nursing profession as a whole.

The public spending watchdog reports that the number entering training has shrunk by a third since 1990. At the same time, the ageing population means there is a growing call for nursing services in the home.

About 2.75 million people receive this kind of care, an 8 per cent increase since 1991. Nearly two thirds are over 65 and a quarter are between 75 and 84.

The report finds that district nurses have little control over their caseloads and "manage their workloads by juggling, sometimes on a daily basis, the frequency or duration of their visits and discharge decisions. This method of management does not promote safe and effective practice."

Caseloads vary widely. Some district nurses have only 20 patients to look after, others have up to 40.

Although only 1 per cent of patients are highly dependent on home nursing, they need a great deal of time. Two thirds of the group has to be seen at least once a day and a further 20 per cent at least three times a week. The workload is made worse by the fact that one case in ten referred for treatment by GPs is inappropriate, costing the average trust £22,000 a year — enough to pay the annual salary of a senior nurse.

Out-of-hours care is patchy round the country, with a third of trusts providing no back-up after 5.30pm and only a quarter having staff on call round the clock.

"As a result, patients in some places are admitted to residential or nursing homes and even to hospital for care that could be, and in some places is, provided in the home."

The report advocates better partnership between healthcare and social services and doing more to match the numbers and skills of nurses to the needs of patients.

Britten's estate joins row over concert fees

By Dalya Alberge
Arts Correspondent

THE estate of Benjamin Britten is threatening to stop future licences to the Oxford University Press to publish the music of the great British composer.

Donald Mitchell, chairman of the estate and the only surviving member of Britten's original executors, expressed outrage at a decision by the Performing Rights Society board, under the chairmanship of OUP's music director, Andrew Potter, to cut the income derived by composers and publishers from live performances.

Dr Mitchell, who was chairman of the society in the early 1980s, said: "We have to think extremely carefully about whether we'd wish to continue publishing with Oxford University Press in these curious circumstances."

How, he asked, was it possible for someone who was a music publisher to have made such a decision, one that would take a drastic toll on composers? "It would be morally impossible for us to continue with a publishing house that is not protecting its composers or estates or interests."



Britten: publisher may lose licence for his music

The decision of the society to scrap a scheme set up in 1992 to supplement live performances of classical music to increase the distributions to the copyright holders has upset the musical world.

John Sweeney, for the society, said that the classical music subsidy had "failed to apply support where it was needed or most valuable".

Kissing game chased out as a health risk

By John O'Leary, education editor

FIVE-YEAR-OLDS have been banned from playing kiss chase in the school playground because their head teacher fears that the "exchange of body fluids" could be a health risk.

The game went too far for Maureen FitzGerald, head of Cheynes Infant School at Luton, Bedfordshire, when some children started putting their tongues into other pupils' mouths. She told parents in a letter that the school could not condone such "inappropriate behaviour".

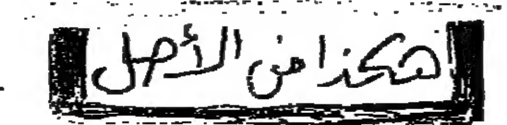
Education officials backed Mrs FitzGerald yesterday, arguing that unwanted physical attention could cause distress. But Iona Opie, the chronicler of children's games, said the action was the latest in a series of "hysterical reactions" to innocent playground games.

Mrs Opie said that even marbles had been banned in some schools recently, adding: "It is just another hysterical reaction to games that have been played safely for generations." Kiss chase dates from the Victorian era, when it spread to schools from a more adult version played in Scottish farmyards.

Luton's "French kiss chase", played by children aged between four and seven, may owe more to copying clinches on television.

Parents outside the school supported the head teacher. Lynn Doyle said: "I think it was a small number of children involved but once one tried to put a tongue inside a mouth it could quickly spread. We are all concerned about meningitis and it was quite right for her to put a stop to kissing like that." Another parent said: "If my seven-year-old child came home and said a boy had his tongue in her mouth I would be the first to be at the school complaining."

Luton Education Authority said it was not unusual for heads to ban the game. "Many other schools nationwide have found that children have responded favourably to the banning of games that involve unwanted physical attention."



Lost harmony: Paul Arthurs, Noel and Liam Gallagher, Paul McGuigan and Tony McCarroll before the split

Oasis to pay sacked drummer £600,000

Fear of huge fees forced musician to drop £18m claim and settle out of court, **Joanna Bale** reports

THE drummer who was sacked by Oasis as the rock group achieved success in 1995 won a £600,000 settlement yesterday.

Tony McCarroll, who lost his place in the band after a fight in a Paris bar with the lead singer, Liam Gallagher, had sought up to £18 million, but legal sources said that he accepted the much smaller offer under the pressure of mounting legal fees. His lawyers negotiated the 11th-hour deal minutes before the case was due to be heard in the High Court.

The trial, which had been billed as potentially one of the most explosive in music history, attracted hundreds of journalists and fans. They packed the public gallery of Court 17 in the hope of hearing Liam and his brother Noel, who are notorious for their liberal use of expletives, giving evidence. Lawyers on both sides were said to be taking bets on who would say the "F-word" first.

By 10.30am, the diminutive McCarroll, dressed in a grey suit, had taken his place at the front of the court, but there was no sign of the brothers Gallagher and it became clear that negotiations were going on behind the scenes.

Shortly before 11am, Mr Justice Rattee appeared and was told by Jonathan Rayner James, QC, for McCarroll: "The parties have come to terms and that will resolve all matters between the parties." The settlement will go before the judge for approval today.

McCarroll had claimed that he had a five-album contract with the band, and had been "unlawfully expelled from the partnership". He had sought a one-off payment of 20 per cent of the band's annual royalties.

Such a settlement would have been worth £10-18 million.

As well as the Gallaghers, he was suing two other members of the band, Paul McGuigan and Paul "Bonehead" Arthurs, who was arrested last week after allegedly being drunk and abusive at a party for the opening of Tommy Hilfiger's new London fashion store. Neither was in court.

After the hearing, McCarroll said: "I'm glad it is all over." Asked if he had made up with his former colleagues, he said: "No. I don't talk to them any more." He then left with friends, saying that he wanted to celebrate.

McCarroll, 27, played on the band's critically acclaimed debut album, *Definitely Maybe*, and on *Some Might Say*, the Number One single from the second album, *(What's the Story) Morning Glory*, before being sacked over the telephone.

Oasis, led by the guitarist and songwriter Noel Gallagher, said that McCarroll had shown no interest in improving his allegedly poor drumming. Prior to McCarroll's departure, Liam told a magazine that the band's ambition was to "find a new drummer".

When McCarroll's place was taken by Alan White, he enlisted the services of the music industry solicitor Jens Hills. Mr Hills, who in 1995 secured £2 million for Pete Best, the drummer sacked by the Beatles before they became famous, yesterday declined to comment on the settlement.

McCarroll's fight with Liam Gallagher in Paris was the culmination of months of bullying by the brothers, who ridiculed his drumming, his intelligence and appearance, according to a book by Oasis's former road manager, Ian Robertson.

During five-a-side football games, they refused to give him the ball, and in the video for the single *Live Forever*, he was made to sit in a grave while the others threw dirt on him.

McCarroll, who now works at rehearsal studios in Manchester and teaches drumming, is one of a long line of musicians, including Robbie Williams, George Michael, The Smiths and Spandau Ballet, whose financial battles have ended up in the High Court.

ADRIAN SHERRATT



Solo celebration: Tony McCarroll outside the High Court in London yesterday

Gallagher held the sticks on first album

By Adam Sherwin

TONY McCARROLL'S performance was so unacceptable to Noel Gallagher that the Oasis songwriter played the drums himself on parts of the group's debut album, a former associate claimed last night.

Ian Robertson, Oasis's road manager during the period in which Mr McCarroll was sacked, said: "Noel played drums on several tracks of *Definitely Maybe*. Tony just wasn't doing it in the way Noel wanted it to be done. Noel is very protective of his music, so he overdubbed Tony's drumming with his own. He wanted to prove a point."

McCarroll went to a drumming coach in a last-ditch attempt to save his position with Oasis, according to Mr Robertson, who was himself fired by the group.

"Tony certainly deserves compensation. He might have become the drummer they wanted him to be. His straightforward style was a large part of the appeal of the early Oasis singles," he said.

Take That star 'was neglected by manager'

By Joanna Bale

THE man who launched Robbie Williams's career in the hit boy band Take That did nothing to stop him abusing alcohol and drugs when he became unable to cope with the pressures of fame, a court was told yesterday.

Nigel Martin-Smith ignored his duties as a manager and left other members of the band to deal with its problems, according to Michael Silverleaf, QC, who is representing Mr Williams.

Mr Silverleaf, who emphasised that Mr Williams was just 16 when the band formed in 1990, said: "He was effectively only a boy who was under Mr Martin-Smith's personal tutelage and guidance. By 1994 Mr Williams was under considerable strain and what he needed was a guide and mentor who would make sure he would stay on the straight and narrow. He got nothing of the kind. He got almost no help at all from Mr Martin-Smith who regarded him as a difficult, awkward troublemaker who was to be whipped into line or thrown out."

Mr Silverleaf said: "So poor were his management services that in 1995 Gary Barlow [a band member] complained that he was not managing."

As the other group members grew tired of Mr Williams's antics, and feared he would damage their reputation, Mr Martin-Smith agreed it was time for the singer to go, said counsel. "What he should have been doing is guiding and assisting Mr Williams, not putting him to one side in the interests of the rest of the group."

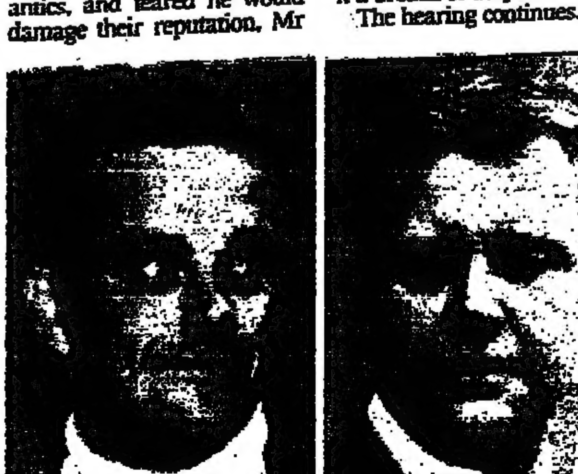
Mr Williams eventually left the band in July 1995. Mr Silverleaf said: "Mr Martin-Smith had advised Mr Barlow and Mr Orange to give Mr Williams a choice. It was commit to the band or leave now."

Mr Williams, the only member of Take That to have enjoyed huge success since the group split, is appealing against a High Court ruling that ordered him to make a one-off payment of £90,000 to his former manager plus a percentage of royalties until 2006, which could bring the total to £1 million.

Richard Millett, counsel for Martin-Smith, said there was always a potential conflict of interests because the manager was looking after the band as a whole.

He said: "That inherent conflict became actual just because Mr Williams regarded himself in need of some extra special care and attention. Mr Martin-Smith thought it would inflame the situation to give that extra special care and attention. That does not make it a breach of duty."

The hearing continues.



Robbie Williams, left, and Nigel Martin-Smith

Invading protesters dug up the lawn

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

PROTESTERS wearing combat gear and balaclavas terrified a quarry manager's children when they invaded his garden in vans and cars.

Ian Wardle's children fled in terror when, on Sunday afternoon, the dozen environmental protesters descended to dig up the lawn and steal a mower as part of their campaign to save a wildflower meadow. The activists, carrying shovels and spades, were retaliating for the meadow, near Bristol, being moved by the firm Pioneer Aggregates.

They arrived at Mr Wardle's house in Chepstow, Monmouthshire, in a convoy and drove on to the lawns where he and his wife were playing with their three children.

As the children fled, the protesters began digging up the lawn, loading the vans with turf. Mr Wardle said yesterday: "The protesters claim to be non-violent but they left my three small children terrified."

Gwent police said that they were investigating what was a criminal offence.

Islanders take Britain to court over eviction

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

ISLANDERS from the Indian Ocean accused Britain yesterday of illegally sending them into poverty-stricken exile in order to turn their home over to American forces.

The High Court in London was told that in the Sixties 3,000 people were evicted from the Chagos archipelago, of which Diego Garcia is the principal island, and dumped 1,200 miles away in Mauritius.

In a case affecting all those who had been dispossessed, Louis Bancoult, 51, chairman of the Chagos Refugees Group in Mauritius, wants to challenge the ban on his return home. The result of his application for judicial review will be announced by Mr Justice Scott Baker today.

Sydney Kentridge, QC, said that the rights of islanders, known as the Ilois, who have the status of British Dependent Territory Citizens, were still being violated. Diego Garcia, now the site of air and naval bases and a strategic communications facility, was the subject of a treaty between America and Britain in 1966, during the Cold War.

Mr Kentridge told the court that between 1966 and 1973 residents were removed from the Chagos, part of the British Indian Ocean Territory, and prevented from returning. Many families had lived for up to five generations in the islands.

In 1967 Mr Bancoult, who was born on the island of Peros Banhos, visited Mauritius so that his sister could receive medical treatment. When the family tried to return home, they were told by the authorities that ships had stopped going there.

The evicted families were deprived of their livelihoods of farming, fishing and plantation work and left to fend for themselves in Mauritius without housing or social security. They suffered from destitution and malnutrition. "No provision was made by the UK Government to enable the Ilois to settle into Mauritius," Mr Kentridge said.

The islanders had "a right of birth and citizenship" to return and an Immigration Ordinance of 1971 making an official permit necessary to visit the Chagos was unlawful, he said. Mr Bancoult, who is not attending the hearing, is receiving legal aid.

The application for leave to seek judicial review is contested by the Government, which says that the High Court has no jurisdiction to consider the challenge.

Richard Gifford, Mr Bancoult's solicitor, said outside the court that suicide and depression are commonplace among the dispossessed islanders. "The main aim is for these people to go home," he said. "The integration experiment in Mauritius has not worked."

Chagos means "wounds of Christ", a name given by early Portuguese seafarers. The islands were uninhabited before the French settled in 1776 as fishermen and coconut farmers and set up a leper colony.

With the defeat of Napoleon in 1815, the islanders came under British colonial rule and were joined by migrants from Africa and India, developing a Creole dialect. They became a matriarchal society because male lepers were more vulnerable to early death.

The population grew to 1,800. One of the few Western visitors, the Fifties journalist James Cameron, called it a "beauty spot of unrivalled tranquillity and beauty".

MICHAEL CAHILL



The island of Diego Garcia, handed over for US military bases and strategic defence

Adams hits RUC plans to box in New York

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

A CHARITY boxing tournament featuring the Royal Ulster Constabulary in New York faced cancellation last night following pressure from Gerry Adams and Sinn Fein supporters in America.

The March 19 tournament is supposed to raise money for a New York police officer seriously injured on duty, but Manhattan's state-operated Jacob Javits Convention Centre has now told the organisers it can no longer stage the event because it needs to prepare for a car show.

The centre's announcement came after Mr Adams sent letters to the state governor, New York's mayor and other top officials saying the invitation to the RUC amounted to "an endorsement of the discredited force".

The RUC said it was "sad that some people seek to turn what is simply a charity event into some sort of political point-scoring exercise".

This was the first time the New York Police Department had invited the RUC to join its annual tournament.

Art trade hopes new codes will crack crime

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A SERIES of voluntary codes to reduce the illicit trade in art and antiques was introduced yesterday with the support of the Home Office, the art trade and the police.

Dealers and auctioneers are recommended to ask vendors to provide a name and address and to sign a form confirming that they are authorised to sell an item. They are advised to be suspicious of any piece whose asking price or requested reserve is below the market value and where a vendor wants cash. If dealers suspect something is stolen, they should "attempt to retain the item while inquiries are made".

The need for action is highlighted by a recent survey from the Council for the Prevention of Art Theft. The registered charity, whose membership ranges from museums to the police, found that 150 privately owned historic properties open to the public have in the past five years suffered 196 thefts or attempted thefts. Some 994 objects worth £14.75 million were stolen: only 7 per cent have been recovered.

Mark Dalrymple, the council's chairman, said it was not only worried about famous art collections. "We are equally concerned to protect the family heirlooms found in many homes. These objects are not necessarily valuable in cash terms, but which may be of great sentimental value."

After three years' research, codes of "due diligence" have been developed by the Council for the Prevention of Art Theft with the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Norfolk Constabulary and the Metropolitan Police.

They have been adopted by organisations including the British Antique Dealers Association and the Antiquarian Booksellers Association.

However, Peter Gwynn, principal security surveyor at the insurers Hiscox and former head of the City of London Police CID, was among those who doubted whether some organisations would fully subscribe to the codes. They might instead use a "watered down" version.

He said the public should be careful when shopping for smaller items such as silver, jewellery, clocks, ceramics and glass and to ask dealers whether they have signed up to a "due diligence" code of conduct through a recognised trade association.

The trade body LAPADA, which represents 700,000 art and antiques dealers, is among those publishing its own code. Malcolm Hord, the chief executive, said its lawyers had advised amendments. The council's codes imposed some obligations "that bordered on the impractical", for example consulting loss registers in the case of a piece of furniture. There was also a sense that the code would create "an obligation on dealers to act as policemen".



A Roman sculpture stolen from a museum in Turkey, one of the most valuable works to which police alerted dealers

LINKS

CoPat: www.copat.freeserve.co.uk
Art Loss Register: www.artloss@artloss.com
Trace, a database of stolen works: www.trace.co.uk
The Getty Information Institute for information about the Object ID scheme: www.gii.getty.edu/pco

Family terrorised by territorial pets

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES, WEST OF ENGLAND CORRESPONDENT

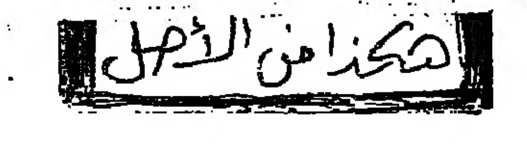
A MARMOSET seemed a lovely pet to cheer up a boy who had had an operation. But the Williams family had to flee their home when the monkey and its mate became enraged at the sight of a human being.

Greg and Pauline Williams, of Bristol, found that the male marmoset and their son Jordon, 8, got on famously; the monkey would sit on Jordon's shoulder and watch television.

Things went wrong after the Williamses bought a mate for their son's new friend. The marmoset pair, named Josh and Cruella, "bonded" and tore the kitchen apart, smashing crockery, and turning on the Williamses, hurling things at them and biting and scratching them and pulling their hair. The RSPCA was called in. Inspector John Pollock said: "It was terrifying. We wore protective hats because we don't have to deal with monkeys very often. At first they showed their bottoms and then they attacked."

Mr Williams, 51, a builder, said: "It was a nightmare: you had to duck in and out in case they attacked. They would jump at you in a pincer movement."

The monkeys now have the run of a large cage in a wildlife park in Somerset. An animal behaviourist, Emma Magnus, said: "When a marmoset bonds with a female they become very territorial."



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Adams hits RUC plans to box in New York

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What happens when figures don't add up

Peter RIDDELL ON POLITICS

We are governed by statistics. The political debate is dominated by regular announcements about prices, unemployment, national income and trade. So when an official statistic goes wrong, it is a political event. If arms sales, the police or sex were involved, there would be a scandal. In the financial markets and among economic policymakers, that was the reaction last November when the average earnings index was suspended after revisions to the data announced in October.

The story began a year ago when data appeared showing an acceleration in earnings growth which continued during the spring. Earnings growth is a key measure of the state of the labour market and a major influence on interest rates. The Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England — which decides interest rates in relation to a target measured by the monthly movements of the retail price index — raised rates last June and cited fears over wage growth.

However, last October, the Office of National Statistics surprised everyone by making unscheduled revisions which showed pay growth to have been even faster than previously thought. Then, a week later, further revisions showed that earnings growth was much weaker.

The Bank and Treasury were furious, not just because vital data turned out to have been wrong but also because ministers had been preaching pay restraint. An immediate inquiry was ordered and a 123-page report was published yesterday by the Treasury.

This contains a three-page chronology of a classic Whitehall mess-up. The methodological problem was the size of the sample. Amid public apologies for failure by the ONS, Patricia Hewitt, the Economic Secretary and one of the few ministers capable of grasping the issues involved, accepted the recommendations. The main change will be greater involvement of outside experts and users in handling potential difficulties.

In the event, the latest data turns out not to be that different from the original figures. So Mervyn King, the Bank's Deputy Governor, was able to play down the impact of the error in influencing last year's increases in interest rates.

The Government has just received an efficiency report on the ONS identifying substantial savings, possibly of up to a fifth of its budget. In opposition, Labour proposed making the ONS independent and accountable to Parliament. The Treasury is consulting on a variety of options, of which the most likely are creating a governing board with a non-executive chairman or an independent statistics commission, together with more accountability to Parliament. The integrity and accuracy of statistics are too important to be left to statisticians, or politicians.

Police and councils face league table test

By Jill Sherman
Chief Political Correspondent

LEAGUE tables are to be drawn up to measure the performance of police, transport, social services, local government and other public services in a drive to increase standards.

Alan Milburn, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, will announce today that the tables, previously confined to schools and hospitals, will be extended across all Whitehall departments. He believes that standards will be forced up as the public is given more information about the best and the worst services.

For example, Dyfed-Powys Police detects 55 per cent of crimes committed while Gloucestershire detects only 20 per cent. Similarly, local council binmen miss on average 53 out of every 100,000 rubbish bins but those in Liverpool miss 6,244, according to auditors' reports.

Mr Milburn will also announce measures to hold ministers to account for delivering better services and to ensure that both the public and public-sector staff play their part.

Ministers will have to deliver regular progress reports on meeting Treasury targets and the Government will set up more consumer surveys and telephone hotlines to involve the public. Staff will also be given incentives through performance-related pay and improved salaries in more senior jobs.


Alan Milburn believes that standards will be forced up

In his first main speech since he moved to the Treasury after the reshuffle when Peter Mandelson resigned, Mr Milburn will argue that it is time for Labour to deliver its election promises. He will say that if the public doubts that Labour can deliver its manifesto pledges it will not be re-elected and the government priority should now be output rather than input.

"It is not enough to spend an extra £40 billion on schools and hospitals and expect to be re-elected," Mr Milburn will say. "The key test is whether or not the public can tell that we are making a difference to their public services — whether it is smaller class sizes, shorter waiting lists or more reliable transport services. These are the yardsticks by which the public will judge us."

Speaking at the Trades Union Congress headquarters, Mr Milburn will point out that new Labour has adopted a new approach. "Old Labour defended services driven by the needs of producers, not consumers. We were prepared to tolerate mediocrity just because it was in the public sector. The sole fixation was the size of the public spending cake," he will say.

This has been the "virility" test between Old Labour and the New Right, he will say. "The New Right wants less public spending, while Old Labour wants more. But we need to be more focused on what really counts: what we get out of what we put in."

Last December the Government announced 375 policy targets and 170 efficiency targets to cover most Whitehall departments which were linked to public-expenditure ceilings.

In the next few weeks Mr Milburn will publish new targets for social security, the Sure Start programme for young children and the countryside. The first progress reports are expected in the next six weeks, with further information in the annual report this summer.

The new Cabinet committee, the PSX or "modernising" committee, will also be calling the four biggest-spending ministers to account over the next few months to see what targets they have met.

The committee, chaired by Gordon Brown, will be interrogating Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, and David Blunkett, the Education Secretary.

The committee includes Mr Milburn, Lord Irvine of Lairg, Jack Cunningham, the Minister for the Cabinet and Baroness Jay of Paddington.

Aid offer gets Cook out of arms row

By Mark Inglefield
Political Reporter

ROBIN COOK pledged a £10 million assistance package to Sierra Leone yesterday to help to restore peace and stability to the troubled West African state.

The Foreign Secretary made the announcement in the Commons as he came under renewed criticism over his handling of the Foreign Office's involvement in the arms-to-Africa affair. Michael Howard, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, said that two reports on the affair had contained "devastating" criticisms of the ministers and officials involved. But Mr Howard's fire was drawn by Mr Cook's offer of aid. Mr Cook said the £10 million would be given to Ecomog, the West African peacekeeping force based in the country. "This will provide further support for its efforts to provide security," he said.

Mr Cook said the money, the largest single payment to Sierra Leone by the Foreign Office, would be used to encourage demilitarisation and to create a future civilian life for those currently attached to the rebel forces. The money would also fund a British military training team to rebuild the Sierra Leone army.

The Tories had called for a debate to discuss the conduct of Mr Cook and his ministers over the handling of the two arms-to-Africa inquiries. Last week it was disclosed that the Foreign Affairs Select Committee inquiry was leaked to him in advance.

Blair calls for EU to learn from US

By Jill Sherman

TONY BLAIR last night called for a new dialogue between the European Union and America to help to ensure the success of the single currency.

The Prime Minister told fellow socialist leaders in Europe that the euro was only a foundation and would not work unless accompanied by economic reform across the Continent.

Speaking at the conference of socialist parties in Milan, Tony Blair said lessons could be learned from the Democrats in the US. "We can't argue with the fact that US unemployment is lower, growth higher — and it's not all low-skill service jobs," he said.

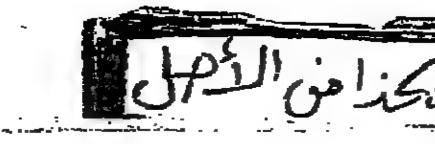
"The prices are often more competitive. This is not an argument to undermine the European Social Model. It is an argument to modernise it."

Just as European defence policy should be compatible with Nato policy, so in economic matters "we can open up a new dialogue building bridges between the US and the EU," he said.

"As the leader of a country that has declared its intention to join the euro in the future, provided that the conditions are right, I can say this with perhaps greater justification than before to those now in the eurozone," Mr Blair said. The euro needed to be accompanied by "real economic reform that tackles the fundamental supply-side weaknesses of the European economy".

Leading article and Letters, page 17

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Pet police collar errant owners

From James Bone in New York

DOG-OWNERS have joined taxi drivers, cyclists, roller-bladers and old men who feed the pigeons as the latest target of New York's increasingly controversial crackdown on "quality of life" crimes.

Police in Manhattan's well-trodden Riverside and Central Parks have begun fining dog-walkers who let their pooches off the lead between 9 am and 9 pm, except in designated "dog-runs".

In the first three days of the campaign the pet police issued 127 "leash-law" summonses, more than ten times the normal number. "The public support is high. Many park users were being turned off by reckless dogs," said Henry Stern, the parks commissioner.

The city is now seeking approval for an increase in the maximum fine from $400 (£250) to $1,000, with £100 being the normal penalty for a first offence. The parks department is promising to set up a database of repeat offenders.

The decision to step up enforcement of the long-ignored "leash law" was taken after three free-roaming alsatian dogs mauled a pensioner in Central Park last autumn. But dog-owners are howling in protest, saying that the city should grant their pets more space.

Jeffrey Zahn, president of Friends and Lovers of Riverside Area Life, which represents 1,000 dog-owners, said the city set aside only 1 per cent of his favourite park for dogs, even though dog-walkers accounted for 15 per cent of all visitors.

Many New Yorkers are nonplussed by the sudden enforcement of obscure by-laws. "Quality of life" summonses have soared by 40 per cent to 500,000 a year since Rudolph Giuliani was elected as the city's first Republican Mayor in a generation.

Spiderman to join screen superheroes

Comic-strip star finally cuts the legal web, writes Giles Whittell

SPIDERMAN, like Batman and Superman before him, is at last destined for Hollywood.

The humanoid with the webbed skin and supernatural strength is to be the star of his own blockbuster with a budget expected to reach $200 million (£125 million) and household names queueing up to play him. Jim Carrey and Leonardo DiCaprio are among those said to be interested in the part, which became available after a late-night deal between Sony Pictures and the Marvel Entertainment Group, ending one of the longest rights battles in film history.

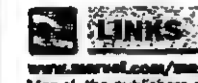
Sony's Columbia Pictures division will pay Marvel between $10 million and $15 million as an advance against a portion of the box-office gross. The two companies will split the huge proceeds from sales of Spiderman souvenirs.

The deal was agreed only after Sony and Marvel reached a separate accord with MGM, hours before a trial was due to assign ownership of Spiderman rights. Legal obstacles remain, but the Internet yesterday had the news that the Holy Grail of action films was at hand: a Spiderman epic directed by *Titanic*'s James Cameron.

Conceived in 1962 by Stan Lee, the legendary Marvel comic-strip artist, Spiderman is the invincible transformation of Peter Parker: an American high-school pupil who, after being bitten by a radioactive spider, acquires useful abilities such as climbing skyscrapers and spinning vast webs to ensnare his enemies.

The concept inspired a fervent strain of arachnophilia in Hollywood even before computer graphics enabled directors to mix cartoon and live-action convincingly. During the 1980s Marvel sold the screen rights to three independent production companies, all of which went bankrupt. Marvel itself re-emerged from bankruptcy only last year.

Mr Cameron, the toast of the film industry after *Titanic*'s spectacular effects and $1.8 billion in worldwide receipts, was paid $3 million in 1991 for a "treatment", or outline, for a Spiderman film. John Calley, Sony's chairman, said his studio acquired the Cameron treatment as part of Sunday's deal. The consensus is that the film will be *the* Hollywood event when it is released.



LINKS

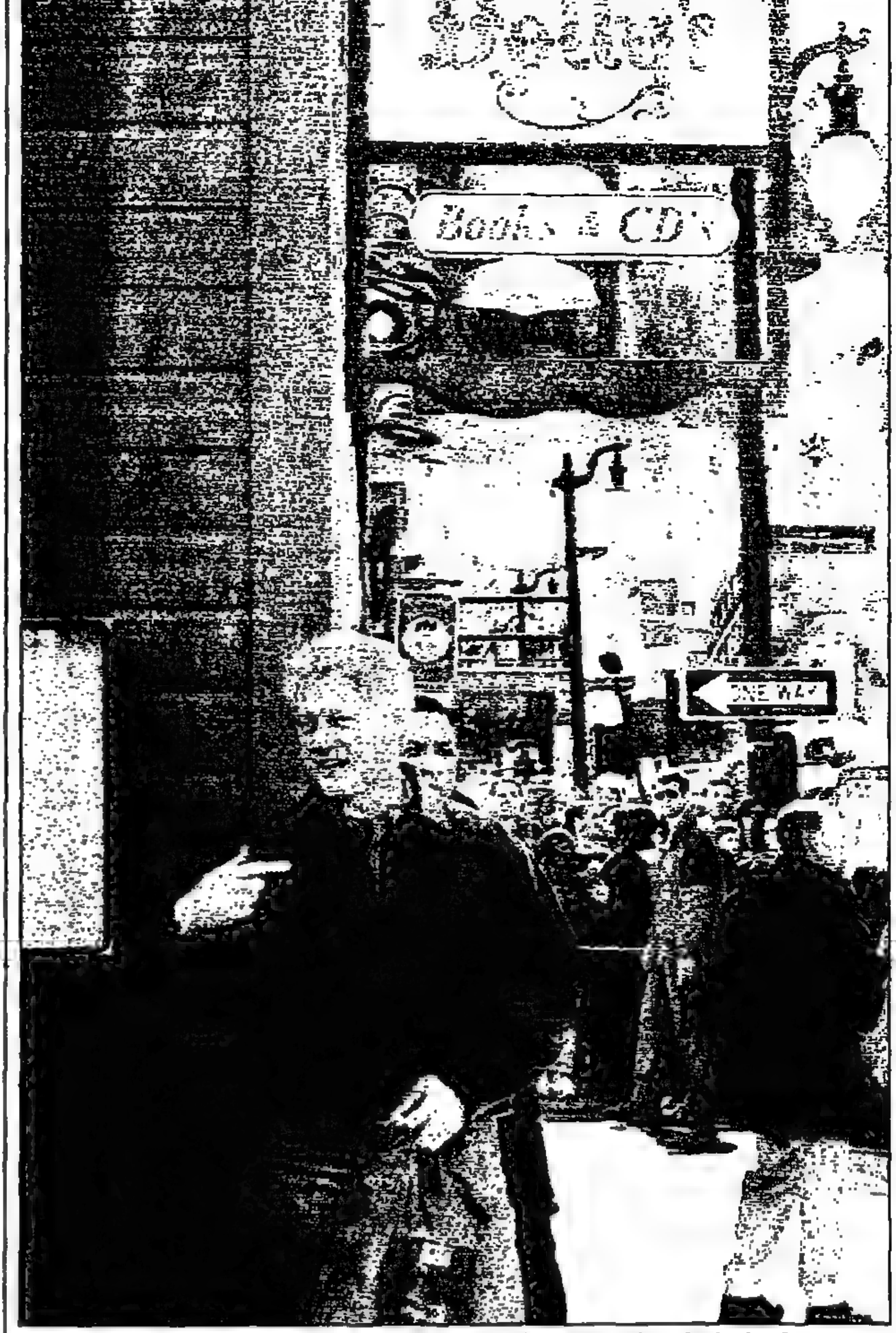
www.marvel.com/marvel.html — Marvel, the publishers of the Spiderman comics.

people.zeelandnet.nl/tokos/spidey.html — Images of Spiderman from nearly 450 comics.

www.sigma.net/spiderman/index.html — Spiderman profiles and reviews.

The Hollywood elite are queueing to play Spiderman

PAUL J. RICHARDS / AFP



President Clinton outside a bookshop in Park City, Utah, where he had to borrow money from a Secret Service agent after his expired credit card was rejected

Clinton passes the buck as credit fails

From Ian Brodie in Washington

MOST shoppers know how Bill Clinton felt when he plonked down his American Express card to buy four books — only to have it rejected. The presidential plastic had expired the day before.

"I ran it through the machine and back it came saying out of date," said Courtney Gannon, an assistant at Dolly's bookshop in the ski resort of Park City, Utah, where the Clintons spent a short break.

Mr Clinton laughed and said: "I probably have the new one at home." He did not have the necessary $62 (£38) so a Secret Service agent helped him out with a short-term loan. The books were John Grisham's *The Testament* and Raymond Chandler's *Playback*, plus two non-fiction books, *India*, a history by Stanley Wolpert, and *In Light of India*, by Octavio Paz, an author and poet who spent six years in Delhi. Mr Clinton cancelled a visit to India last year, after it and neighbouring Pakistan exploded nuclear devices. The trip has not yet been rescheduled.

A new poll shows Mr Clinton holding his high job-approval rating of 66 per cent, despite allegations by Juanita Broaddrick that he raped her 21 years ago.

Linda Tripp is meanwhile returning to the Pentagon in a new job. She has been working from home on a training manual since her tape recordings set off the Lewinsky scandal. Her new post will be as a public affairs specialist in the manpower data centre.

Starr inquiry turns America against independent counsels

By Ian Brodie

THE Clinton Administration yesterday joined a growing chorus of voices opposed to extending the independent counsel law that enabled Kenneth Starr to accuse the President of impeachable offences over his affair with Monica Lewinsky.

The law is so "fundamentally flawed" that it ought to be scrapped, [illegible] Eric Holder, deputy attorney-general, in a report to the House Judiciary Committee which voted along party lines for articles of impeachment against Mr Clinton last autumn.

The Watergate-era law covering investigation of alleged crimes by the President and other senior government officials is due to expire on June 30 unless Congress renews it.

Until now, the Clinton Administration has supported the law which was intended to prevent a repetition of Richard Nixon's infamous "Saturday Night Massacre" when he dismissed Archibald Cox for getting too close to uncovering wrongdoing in the White House.

Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, has been criticised in recent months for refusing to appoint an independent counsel to investigate fund-raising abuses by the Clinton-Gore presidential campaign in 1996.

In fact, the law has suited neither Democrats nor Republicans who complained that the independent counsel enjoyed unlimited time and budgets for investigations.

Democrats are still seething over Mr Starr's continuing inquiries for which the bill is approaching $50 million (£31 million). Republicans were aggrieved by the prolonged independent counsel investigation into the Iran-Contra scandal dating from the Reagan era.

Suggested alternatives to the law would put greater constraints on an independent counsel. Some voices have been raised against ditching the law in the wake of ill feeling caused by the Lewinsky affair.

"Cool it, think about it for a while and let the temper of these times soften," said the widely respected Howard Baker, a senator during Watergate and later President Reagan's chief of staff.

There has been a sharp decline in political support for the law, once considered essential to the integrity of investigating misconduct by high-level officials but now feared as concentrating unchecked powers in the hands of a single lawyer.

Mr Starr has done much to undermine the law by creating the public perception of a relentless pursuer of Mr Clinton and his associates dating back to Arkansas days. There have been 20 independent prosecutors of whom 13 had returned no indictments by last November.

☐ Manchester, New Hampshire: Pat Buchanan, 60, the fiery conservative who shook up the past two presidential elections, launched his third White House campaign yesterday, vowing to fight a "polluted and poisoned" popular American culture. (Reuters)

Budget curbs end the euro honeymoon

Diverging inflation rates raise concern for stability, Charles Bremner writes from Brussels

FRESH signs emerged yesterday of a widening economic gap among the nations of euroland, reinforcing worries over the single currency's stability.

Figures showing diverging inflation rates heightened concern that the economies of the 11-nation zone are moving out of step, with Germany and Italy slowing, growth continuing in France and especially strong in Spain, The Netherlands and Ireland.

This prospect of an economic faultline through euroland is adding to pressure on the currency, which has lost 7 per cent of its value against the dollar compared with its launch two months ago, and which fell to a new low this week. It is also fuelling tension between the social democrat politicians who run most European governments and the fiercely independent European Central Bank (ECB), which manages the currency with the primary goal of fighting inflation.

EU officials are denying there is any cause for alarm, noting that the longer-term outlook is healthy. "It's early days. We're not worried about anything, but you could say the euro's honeymoon is over," an EU official said yesterday.

The unexpected slide in the euro's value and the stumbling German economy have put paid to the "euro-phoria" of the January launch, when EU leaders hailed the dawn of a strong new global currency that would spur growth in euroland and enable members to overtake the United States.

With anxiety in the air, all eyes are on Frankfurt where the ECB will decide tomorrow whether to leave the euro's interest rate unchanged at 3 per cent, or drop it in deference to Germany and the other states that are desperate to stimulate growth. Wim Duisenberg, the ECB's chief, is indicating that the bank will do nothing. "Our perspective is based on the euro zone and not just Germany," he said this week.

In other words, Germany, whose Finance Minister, Oskar Lafontaine, has been publicly attacking the bank, faces a potential lesson in the implications of the one-size-fits-all regime of interest rates that critics see as the euro's big flaw. With interest rates set centrally, the main tool for governments is budget policy, but their hands are tied by tight euro-inspired ceilings on deficits.

If the German economy moves seriously out of line with those of France and others, the potential for political trouble is great, because of the country's place as the biggest EU economy and anchor of the currency scheme.

Critical politicians say the bank is too focused on its paramount duty of fighting inflation, which held steady in January at an annual 0.8 per cent in the 11 euro states — compared with a slight rise to 1.6 per cent in Britain. Germany, where fear of deflation is growing, was steady at 0.2 per cent. The rate dropped in Italy, but rose in France, Spain, The Netherlands and Belgium. Inflation in Portugal, The Netherlands and Ireland is running above the 2 per cent ceiling set by the bank.

Echoed by many experts, Mr Duisenberg, is blaming the troubles of Germany and the other high unemployment states on a failure to reform their economies by injecting greater flexibility. The left-wing leaders hit back from a social democrat congress in Milan this week with demands for the bank to take employment into account.

Mr Duisenberg is accusing the politicians, and Herr Lafontaine in particular, of fuelling the slide in the euro value with their attacks on bank policy. The other explanation for the slippage, Mr Duisenberg says, is the continuing boom in the United States. It is taken as given that the more Herr Lafontaine attacks the bank, the less willing it will be to seem to comply with the Germans by dropping rates.

Mr Duisenberg is part of an establishment chorus insisting that the euro's market slide is a short-term phenomenon that offers no threat to the currency zone. The euro is strong compared with the value of the old national currencies a year ago and foreign investors are still pouring money into euro-denominated bonds, they note. This implies that the bank is not about to raise interest rates to support the currency.

In effectively talking down the euro, Herr Lafontaine is making clear that Germany is not worried about a weak currency. The main benefit is that this makes euro zone exports cheaper for customers. However, other politicians and many EU officials see a weak euro as a bad advertisement for the credibility of Europe's grand monetary scheme. Against this background, EU leaders are delighted by Tony Blair's enthusiasm for the currency.

Duisenberg: bank will not defer to Germany

Leading article, page 17

SIMON WALKER



Max Mara's 1999 autumn/winter ready-to-wear collection was unveiled in Milan yesterday, transforming couture trends into designs suitable for the high street

Mara makes his mark

FROM LISA ARMSTRONG, FASHION EDITOR, IN MILAN

THERE are days when you can forget that Milan's fashion industry is more concerned with money than creativity and days when you cannot — like yesterday.

Day three of Milan Fashion Week kicked off with Max Mara, whose flagship collection specialises in beautifully made clothes, especially coats, and distils hot trends into wearable designs.

On that basis, next season we are going to be seeing a lot of duffel coats, leather detailing, fringed hems and camel hair, evening and night, worked into long full skirts and dresses with appliquéd gold patchwork. This wasn't ground-breaking stuff, but it was all slick, beautifully made and extremely desirable.

Unlike the attempt at Eighties revivalism by Alessandro dell'Acqua later in the day. Treading where angels fear to, and he certainly shouldn't have, dell'Acqua dredged up the worst of the last decade and did nothing to ameliorate it. Out trudged bat-wing sleeves, leather drainpipe trousers and pussycat bows.

This was the kind of collection press releases optimistically described as eclectic. Another word would be dross.

Giants escape chainsaw in lumber deal

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

THE majestic ancient redwoods of northern California's Headwaters Forest have been saved from the chainsaw in an eleventh-hour deal reached after more than a decade of sometimes violent struggle and the allocation of nearly half a billion dollars in public funds.

The trees, some of which are thought to be as old as Christianity, tower over younger redwoods in remote hill country, six hours' drive north of San Francisco.

As the largest groves of their kind still in private hands, they were in danger of being felled for sale by the Pacific Lumber Company until it agreed to preserve them late on Monday. Some 5,000 acres of "old-growth" forest will be preserved within a 10,000-acre parcel to be managed by state officials.

In addition, a much larger tract which provides a buffer zone round the ancient trees will be subject to strict rules on where and when the company may log. In return, Pacific Lumber will receive $250 million (£153 million) from the federal Government and another $230 million in all from California.

President Clinton, who has warmed to the environment as a political theme, even though few conservationists admire his track record, praised the deal as he returned to Washington from a Utah skiing holiday. "These redwoods are a natural treasure, as much a part of our legacy as the world's great libraries and cathedrals," he said.

Initially agreed two years ago, the deal had to be signed by Monday or the federal funds would no longer have been available.

It appeared to be scuppered when Pacific Lumber withdrew from talks last Friday. But the company re-entered negotiations by telephone on Monday, apparently on the same terms as before. The intense negotiations also involved Bruce Babbitt, the Interior Secretary, and state resources officials.

Under the deal, the company may not touch the oldest trees and is barred from logging within 30ft of salmon streams in the 210,000-acre buffer zone.

"It was a gruelling experience, but the results are acceptable," John Campbell, president of Pacific Lumber, said.

Logging next to streams in recent years has clogged them with silt and led to the near-extinction of the local coho salmon. Pacific Lumber, a 130-year-old firm, was known until 1985 as a cautious steward of its lands.

It was then bought by the Houston-based Maxxam Corporation, which had no history of forest management and sought to maximise logging revenues to help service debts acquired as a result of an unrelated savings and loan débâcle in the 1980s.

The Maxxam chairman, Charles Hurwitz, has steadfastly refused to talk to environmentalists and has become a favourite bogeyman of the environmental movement.

More than 1,000 protesters were arrested in the Headwaters Forest in 1996, and a smaller group made headlines the following year when police daubed liquid pepper spray on their eyes to end a sit-in in the company's head office.

On a nearby ridge, Julia "Butterfly" Hill has broken several records with a 15-month "tree-sit" in the upper branches of a still unprotected ancient redwood. She has vowed to stay there until a logging moratorium is declared for the entire region.



Saved from the chainsaw: some of the Californian redwoods are thought to be as old as Christianity

WORLD IN BRIEF

Israeli Opposition 'will quit Lebanon'

Jerusalem: Ehud Barak, the leader of Israel's Labour Party, pledged to bring troops home from south Lebanon within one year of becoming Prime Minister (Christopher Walker writes). His announcement put the issue of withdrawal from Lebanon at the centre of the country's bitter election campaign.

Mr Barak's televised pledge caught the national mood as Israel buried Brigadier-General Erez Gerstein, 38, killed in southern Lebanon by the Hezbollah. His proposal also came as *The Jerusalem Post* featured an article to "Leave Lebanon" and *Haaretz* ran a column headlined "Let's Just Get The Hell Out".

Nigerian youths riot

Lagos: At least one person was killed and four were injured when mobs of Yoruba youths armed with petrol bombs attacked and destroyed two police stations, a police spokesman said. The protesters used sledgehammers to free dozens of prisoners. They also attacked officers and cut off the hand of a woman. Both stations are in strongholds of Olu Falae, who lost Saturday's Nigerian presidential election to General Olusegun Obasanjo. *(AP)*

Air France jet hijacked

Paris: The hijacker of an Air France plane carrying 75 passengers surrendered to police at Charles de Gaulle airport. The Italian-speaking man hijacked the A320 Airbus flying from Marseilles to Paris Orly after threatening to detonate a bomb, (Susan Bell writes). The pilot diverted to the capital's main airport. The hijacker released most passengers but six stayed with the crew while negotiations continued until his surrender.

Violinist awarded £18m

Chicago: A jury has awarded a prize-winning violinist Rachel Barton, 24, right, $29.6 million (£18.5 million) for a train accident that cost her a leg and part of a foot. She was dragged more than 100 yards from a suburban platform when the strap of her violin case caught in a closing door in 1995. Railway lawyers claimed that she kept hold of the strap because her 200-year-old Amati violin was worth $500,000. *(AP)*



Clay warriors moulder

Beijing: China's 2,000-year-old Terracotta Warriors are going mouldy because of the breath of thousands of tourists. Experts quoted in the *China Daily* said visitors to the site, near Xian, had raised temperature and humidity levels in buildings covering the ancient pits. About 7,000 clay soldiers were buried to guard the mausoleum of China's first emperor, Qin Shihuang. *(AFP)*

Pope aims for rap hit

Rome: The Vatican is to release a CD of the Pope's homilies and prayers set to rap music, as part of the 76-year-old pontiff's drive to "reach out to the young", officials said (Richard Owen writes). *Abba Pater*, masterminded by Sony Milan and Vatican Radio, will be released in 50 countries later this month. The Vatican hopes it will outsell the theme to *Titanic*.

Eurocratic red tape stops French from hunting the bunting



The ortolan: a delicacy in France

The threat of a huge fine has saved the ortolan from the Gallic table, write Susan Bell in Paris and Derwent May

THE plight of the tiny ortolan, a songbird regarded as one of the greatest delicacies in *haute cuisine*, will finally be resolved this week after an 18-year battle as the French Government agrees reluctantly to put the bunting on a list of protected birds.

The move came after the European Court of Justice threatened to fine the Government Fr700,000 (£73,000) a day if it continued to drag its feet over implementing a 1981 decree from its own Environment Ministry which would effectively ban hunting of the songbirds.

Successive governments have avoided enforcing the ban, for fear of antagonising the hunting lobby. So far, the only noticeable effect of the decree has been to raise the price of ortolans, which can fetch up to £35 on the black market. France's highest legal body, the Conseil d'Etat, ordered the Government to pay a Fr500 daily fine last month for failing to implement the ruling. But an Environment Ministry spokeswoman admitted yesterday that it was the threat of the enormous fine to the European Commission which forced the Government to capitulate.

An estimated 150,000 ortolans are captured and eaten every autumn as they migrate through southwest France on their way to North Africa and the Middle East. Once it lands in France, the ortolan, which has the misfortune to taste like a mixture of truffles and foie gras, has been in legal limbo. Although hunting the bunting is technically illegal because it is not on the list of officially sanctioned game birds, local authorities turned a blind eye to the practice.

Ortolan consumption is not for the faint of heart. Once the birds are trapped, they are fattened on grain for several weeks before their beaks are plunged into Armagnac and their gizzards removed. The bird is garnished and baked for seven minutes before being devoured whole, bones, innards and all, in an elaborate ceremony.

The Gallic passion for this forbidden delicacy was highlighted when the dying François Mitterrand gorged himself on two of the birds at a last supper on New Year's Eve three years ago.

As is the custom, the former President draped his head with a large white linen napkin to protect fellow diners from the horrific spectacle as he consumed the charred birds whole. According to witnesses, there was an embarrassed silence broken only by the sound of crunching bones.

Mitterrand then leaned back in his chair, beaming with ecstasy. Eight days later he died.

Alain Juppé, the former Prime Minister and Gaullist Mayor of Bordeaux, who holds the dubious distinction of being the least popular leader since records began, succeeded in outraging the electorate, animal rights groups and Brigitte Bardot, the self-appointed defender of French wildlife, when he committed the political *faux pas* of admitting to *Elle* magazine that he too had indulged in a feast of ortolans.

A spokeswoman for the anti-hunting association, the Rassemblement d'Opposants à la Chasse, said yesterday: "The European population of ortolans is in decline. The Government must act swiftly."

The hunting lobby retorted that hunting ortolans is a tradition which goes back to the Romans and that only 40,000 are killed each year, amounting to less than 2 per cent of the European population.

Ortolan buntings are common in summer across most of Europe. They do not nest in Britain but you can sometimes stumble across one that has drifted over the North Sea in autumn, when they migrate southwards.

They are about 6in long and look like pink-breasted yellowhammers. The males are particularly beautiful, with a greenish head, a yellow moustache and a yellow bib. They have stout beaks and long tails. Like yellowhammers, they sing in hedges and bushes in scrubland or along the edge of fields, but their song is a sweeter run of notes.

They are plump, which is what commends them to the table. There are more than ten million pairs breeding in Europe every summer, so they are not a particularly endangered species.

Hardliner quits as political chief of Kosovo rebels

FROM TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE

ADEM DEMACI, the father figure of the Kosovo Liberation Army, yesterday stepped down as its political front man after regional commanders said they could no longer accept his hardline stance, which is blocking the Contact Group's peace plans for the province.

The 64-year-old former political prisoner had been expected for several days to resign, after he was attacked in the Pristina press for undermining the Rambouillet peace talks and dashing American hopes of using airstrikes to break Belgrade's resistance to a Nato implementation force. Yesterday KLA sources confirmed that the bespectacled maverick, whose political dream was a southeastern Europe federation called "Balkania", had been summoned to KLA headquarters in the Drenica region over the weekend, where he received his marching orders.

Mr Demaci put a brave face on events, telling a press conference: "Since there are people who can deal with politics better than I can, I have come here today to say farewell to you as the general political representative of the KLA." The KLA sources also said regional commanders had been worried that Mr Demaci's fragile health was not up to the rigours of the peace negotiations. He suffers from diabetes, and travels regularly for treatment at a clinic in Ljubljana. He also uses the Slovene capital as a base to meet the KLA's financial and military backers and is thought likely to remain active behind the scenes.

His removal clears the way for an injection of youth into the KLA's hierarchy, and yesterday Jakup Krasnicki, the guerrillas' spokesman, confirmed that Hashim Thaci, 29, will be Prime Minister of an interim "Kosova" government that will rule KLA territory until elections are held under the Contact Group constitution for the province.

Mr Krasnicki also said that the guerrillas have been invited to send a delegation to Washington before the next round of peace talks begins at Evreux in Normandy on March 15. The news has outraged Belgrade, where the main government newspaper, *Politika*, yesterday accused the State Department of complicity in genocide in Kosovo.

There is speculation in Pristina that Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, will encourage the KLA to give up its weapons and transform itself into the KLP, or Kosovo Liberation Party. Along with Christopher Hill, the mediator, she is known to want the KLA leaders to commit themselves to signing the Contact Group peace plan before the Evreux talks begin.

Diplomatic sources in Belgrade confirmed last night that, whatever America might engineer ahead of the conference, its hope of threatening the Serb delegation again with airstrikes was diminishing. "The US does not have the support of its European allies," one official said. "There's no longer the will to bomb."

HAZIR REKA / REUTERS



Adem Demaci in Pristina yesterday after resigning as the political representative of the KLA. Mr Demaci had attracted criticism for his opposition to peace talks

British troops rehearse for peace mission

FROM MICHAEL EVANS IN KRIVOLAC, MACEDONIA

ON a dusty plain in the middle of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 100 miles from Kosovo, thousands of British troops are assembling with tanks and artillery for a peacekeeping operation across the Yugoslav border.

A total of 2,900 British troops are training to be part of the proposed 28,000-man multinational Nato-led force. Yesterday, watched by George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, the King's Royal Hussars — who last week were in Germany — fired live rounds from Challenger tanks across the plain at Krivolac.

By March 12, three days before the extended Kosovo peace talks resume at a French airbase at Evreux, the number of British troops in Macedonia will have increased to 4,400 — and if a peace settlement is signed, they will increase to 8,400.

Yesterday, on a brief visit to the troops at the Macedonian Army training area near Krivolac, Mr Robertson observed how large sections of the British Army have rapidly deployed from Germany to this tiny country which has a population of only two million.

The training ground was filled with about 150 armoured vehicles, including 14 Challenger tanks. Addressing hundreds of troops from the lead battle group based around the King's Royal Hussars, Mr Robertson promised that they would not have to "fight their way" into Kosovo.

He emphasised that the proposed operation would be peacekeeping, not military intervention. However, he was not able to say when or if they would cross into Kosovo.

Mr Robertson estimated that Operation Agricola, the codename for Britain's participation in the proposed Kosovo Force (Kfor), would cost £150 million in the first six months.

The French are also here in growing numbers, and 2,000 US Marines are waiting off the Greek port of Salonika for the order to land and move up into Macedonia.

Provisionally, Kosovo has been divided into five "regional command boundaries" for the Nato peacekeeping operation, with the British in central and southern areas of the province. The Americans have provisionally been allocated the north, the French and Italians the east and west, and the Germans the southwest.

Cook visits a rudderless Russia

FROM ANNA BLUNDY IN MOSCOW

ROBIN COOK, who arrives in the northern port of Murmansk today to visit a nuclear reprocessing plant, has pressing issues to discuss with the Russian Government, including Kosovo and the Russian arms to Iraq scandal.

But the Foreign Secretary has come to a country whose President is in hospital once again and whose Prime Minister is on holiday in the Black Sea resort of Sochi amid rumours that his vacation was not voluntarily undertaken and that his removal is afoot.

Mr Cook is due to fly to Sochi on Friday for a meeting with Yevgeni Primakov, the Prime Minister and the man tipped to be Russia's next President, although he continues firmly if unconvincingly to deny any intention of running.

A new poll puts dissatisfaction with President Yeltsin at 90 per cent and approval of Mr Primakov at 56 per cent and, if one is to believe the Russian press, it is this discrepancy in ratings that may be the Prime Minister's undoing.

Mr Yeltsin does not take well to those who would step into his shoes and Mr Primakov's public appearances have noticeably multiplied in recent days. It is believed that the ailing Mr Yeltsin's sudden return to work a fortnight ago, the cause of his renewed hospitalisation, was precipitated by Mr Primakov's increasingly high profile.

Dmitri Yakushkin, the presidential press spokesman, said that Mr Yeltsin had "firmly persuaded" Mr Primakov to go on holiday. Rumours, meanwhile, are rife that senior government members upon whom the Prime Minister relies might be for the chop.

The Prime Minister's enthusiasm to maintain a firm hold over the media and Russia's unruly regions has been much in evidence lately and Interfax reported yesterday that a meeting with President Clinton might be included in his visit to Washington this month.

"Figuratively speaking, he [Primakov] has caught up with Yuri Luzhkov [the Mayor of Moscow] in terms of 'cutting ribbons'," *Argumenti i Fakti* said.

Komsomolskaya Pravda speculated that a Cabinet reshuffle may take place while Mr Primakov is in Sochi.

The continuing media speculation about Mr Primakov's intentions and Mr Yeltsin's attitude towards them prompted the two men to make a joint television appearance last week in which the President declared that he would remain in office until 2000 and that Mr Primakov would remain Prime Minister until that time.

☐ **Siberian stand-off:** About 60 fundamentalist Christians took over a public building in the Yakutskaya region of eastern Siberia, and threatened to commit suicide if the authorities forced them out, Russian media reported yesterday.

Security forces surrounded the district building in Aldan, which was taken over by Pentecostalists on Monday to protest against a January decision by residents of their village, Kutana, to expel them. *(AFP)*

Swiss to test story of guard's suicide

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Swiss authorities are to exhume the body of a young member of the Swiss Guards who murdered his commanding officer last year, according to Italian press reports.

Il Messaggero said Swiss magistrates had agreed to a request by Muguette Bauday-Tornay, the mother of Vice-Corporal Cedric Tornay, for her son's body to be exhumed so that experts could establish whether the Vatican's version of the tragedy was correct.

Last month the Vatican released its nine-month inquiry which concluded that Tornay, 23, had shot dead Colonel Alois Estermann, 44, and his wife, Gladys, 49, in a "fit of madness" in May after being passed over for promotion and military honours. He then killed himself.

But his mother, who lives in Switzerland, said she believed her son had been framed. One theory says there was a plot inside the Vatican to kill Estermann, said by German papers to have been an agent for East Germany before the fall of communism. He was killed the day he became the new Swiss Guards commander.

According to the official report, Tornay shot himself through the mouth. But his mother said a new post-mortem examination could prove whether the trajectory of the bullet was consistent with suicide, or whether it showed he had been murdered.

Gianluigi Marrone, the Vatican lawyer who conducted the inquiry, said he was confident any examination of Tornay's body would confirm the Vatican account.



Tornay: mother claims he was framed

Cold facts of global warming

The discovery of ancient ice at the South Pole is forcing a rethink on climate theories, says Nicholas Booth

In Antarctica, you are either too hot or too cold. That's how Dr David Sugden describes living conditions at the South Pole where he moves around in the coruscating cold in layers of clothes and impressive-looking hoods.

He could just as well be describing the enduring controversy about the frozen continent's climate. For years, glaciologists have debated whether the Antarctic climate has undergone periodic warmings or remained freezing cold. As the man who discovered the world's oldest ice, Dr Sugden believes he has solved the mystery.

A professor of geography at Edinburgh University, he believes he has proof that the Antarctic has long been in deep freeze, implying that the Earth's climate as a whole is far more resilient than had been thought. Reports of catastrophic effects to come from global warming may well be exaggerated, he says.

> Reports of a global warming catastrophe may be exaggerated

"We've argued that the Antarctic ice has been very stable for a long time. Now we have shown that there is a genuinely large lump of ancient ice in a dry valley. Its survival implies that the climate must have been similar in the past."

Few people thought that ice could survive for eight million years, even in Antarctica. Along with American colleagues, Dr Sugden *published his findings in 1995, but* there was little reaction from the outside world. Chris McKay, a biologist with Nasa, observes: "They produced a paper called 'Miocene Ice in Antarctica'. *That's another* way of saying 'This is the world's oldest ice'. Most ice on Earth has only been around for a few hundred thousand years."

Recently, Mr McKay shared a tent with Dr Sugden on the floor of Beacon Valley in Antarctica, where they were equipped with drills and ground-penetrating radars.

The dry valleys are associated with tragedies of earlier expeditions. They were discovered by Robert Falcon Scott on his first visit to the southern continent in 1905. Even by the breathtaking standards of vertiginous landscapes of sculpted ice, the valleys were a revelation. Climatically, they are bizarre — drier than the Gobi desert with little water vapour available to fall as snow. They are cut off from the nearby ice by the towering Transantarctic Mountains and, over the millennia, have been peppered with volcanic ash and dust.

"I've been down to the south a dozen times," Dr Sugden says. "It came as quite a surprise to find old, glacial ice under the rubble of the dry valleys."

The ice in Antarctica plays a fundamental role in modifying climate. Although it covers only about 10 per cent of the total landmass on Earth, Antarctica contains about 90 per cent of the world's ice. Polar icecaps keep the Earth cool, with the ice limiting the exchange of heat between the atmosphere and the ocean in the polar regions. What happens to Antarctic ice is viewed as a marker for global climate change: the first signs of global warming are likely be seen at the South Pole.

The controversy stems from the disputed age of the ice in the dry valleys and hangs on the question of how hot or cold the climate has been in the past. The advocates of periodically warmer climates have examined microscopic flora which could have thrived in warmer times if the surrounding regions *were deglaciated. "We think* these things blew in from elsewhere at a later date," Dr Sugden says. "They are found so widely in the ice over the rest of the continent."

He and his colleagues have come at the problem from a different angle: volcanic ash. There are active volcanoes in Antarctica today; in the past, they could have spewed untold quantities of ash and dust into the atmosphere which rained down into the dry valleys. By looking at argon isotopes within the ash, Dr Sugden's team has dated the ice to eight million years. After their earlier paper, more recent extensive analyses have bolstered their findings. "When you have nine out of ten grains giving you this age, you can be pretty certain you're right," he says.

But could the ice have been just a few metres deep and a more recent phenomenon, caused by water seeping into the moraines when warmed by sunlight during the austral summer? Samples of the ice, analysed by Belgian researchers, show that their structure is glacial, having the characteristic shape of snowflakes packed together over time. And the ground radar used on the most recent research trip shows that the ice extends for at least 120 metres below the surface.

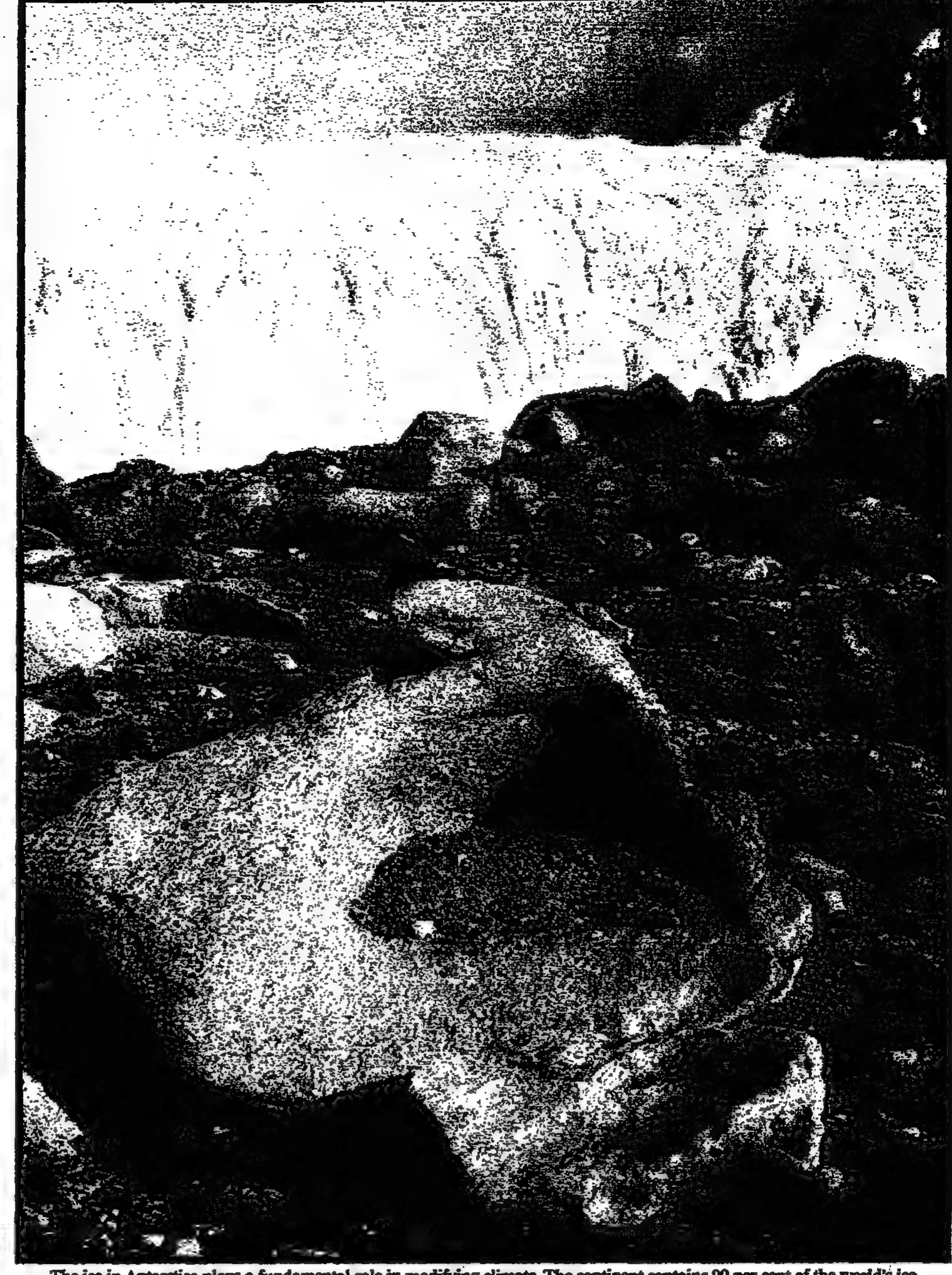
What does this mean? Dr Sugden believes that it could have a curious outcome on the future of the continent. The Antarctic is bisected by the Transantarctic Mountains. Climatically, it is a continent of two halves, a distinction which informs the debate on global warming.

Western Antarctica is more unstable because most of the land on which the ice rests is below sea level. Ice continues to spread out to the sea, forming ice shelves that are glued to the landmass by the freezing cold. "The ice is like a ship that is aground," Dr Sugden says. "Its weight keeps it moored there." If temperatures rise, the sea level could rise by a few metres, though this has not been measured yet.

But Eastern Antarctica, in which the dry valleys are located, is a different matter. Containing ten times more ice than the western half, the results from Beacon Valley suggest that it is much more stable. Eastern Antarctica is effectively a giant dome of ice that rises some four kilometres above sea level because its *underlying rock is higher.*

Dr Sugden believes that this larger part of the ice sheet will act as its own thermostat and control the climatic conditions. Increase the temperature *and water will go into the* atmosphere as vapour, form snow and, paradoxically, increase the snow cover. "To get rid of this ice, you're going to have to do something very, very drastic," he adds. "Our findings show that the climate has been stable in the past and would be expected to remain so."

If all the ice in Antarctica were melted, then global sea levels could rise by 60 metres. But Dr Sugden believes that the curious ice found in the dry valleys is telling us that that is a very unlikely event indeed.



The ice in Antarctica plays a fundamental role in modifying climate. The continent contains 90 per cent of the world's ice

Research funding ☐ Underwater hearing aid ☐ Heart fears

Wanted: a rich man to back bright ideas



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

IS THERE a multimillionaire out there willing to support a new approach to funding research? It comes with a good track record, heavyweight supporters and the backing of the British Technology Group. All it needs is a few million pounds from someone who does not share the view that, as far as British science is concerned, all is for the best in the best of all possible worlds.

The man behind the Breakthrough Research Fund is Don Braben, a physicist-turned-Whitehall science adviser who, for a decade in the 1980s, ran a company called Venture Research. Backed by BP, Venture Research sought radical ideas in research, the sort that scientists find difficult to fund through conventional channels. By 1990, when a shift in corporate policy ended BP's interest, Venture Research had supported some 26 research programmes at a total cost of £15 million — not a lot of money compared with the research councils.

Given that scientists turned to Venture because the usual avenues were closed to them, the success rate was high. Among Braben's chosen few was Oxford chemist Steve Davis, whose company, Oxford Asymmetry, is now worth more than £200 million. Venture also supported Ken Seddon, then at Sussex, now a professor at Queen's University, Belfast, whose new approach to chemical solvents is attracting considerable interest.

Since BP pulled the plug, Braben has been looking for new sponsors. An obvious target was Nesta, the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts, set up by the Government as a fresh approach to funding "the nation's most creative and inventive people". Nesta will have an income of £10 million a year to support such people, so on the face of it they make a perfect match for Braben and his new initiative, the Breakthrough Research Fund. But Nesta has apparently decided against supporting him.

Braben argues that his approach is the best way of getting money to highly creative scientists whose ideas are unlikely to appeal to the committees that dominate research council funding. In his recent book *Egg and Ego*, Professor Jonathan Slack, of the University of Bath, identifies the problem as the fact that nothing is funded unless it is guaranteed to succeed — and that proposals that are guaranteed to succeed are not at all interesting.

"Research is like investment on the financial market," he says. "Small rewards can be had for little risk, but big rewards mean big risks indeed." And asking a committee to set research strategy "has about as much chance of showing creativity and originality as a large canvas painted by a committee of art school directors".

Braben's catch is that to escape from committees he has to persuade a committee to back him. Despairing of that, he is now combing the lists of the world's richest men in the hope of finding one prepared to set the ball rolling. "We have shown we can do it," he says. "This is a great opportunity we could be throwing away."

Sound way to protect the whales



TWO British *consultants*, Douglas Gillespie and Oliver Chappell, have devised a way to protect whales and dolphins from the loud noises made by oil prospectors.

A common technique when searching for oil under the seabed involves creating seismic waves by explosives and then observing their reflection off the underlying rock strata. This can provide hints about where oil and gas may be trapped.

Whales and dolphins have sensitive ears, which they use for long-distance communication. Because of the potential harm that explosions may do, many countries now ban this technique when whales or dolphins are sighted. But in rough weather they can be hard to spot.

The alternative proposed by the two *consultants, and* reported in *Scientific Computing World*, is a software program that will run on a PC and will analyse sounds emitted by the *mammals to help to* locate them.

The program is based on pattern recognition techniques developed at the European Particle *Physics Laboratory*, CERN, in Geneva. But unlike the CERN devices, which were expensive purpose-built chips, the new program will run on an ordinary *Pentium PC. This* means that seismic researchers will be able to take them to sea without worrying too much if they are damaged.

Chlamydia link to heart disease

A MECHANISM that might explain why infection with a bacterium is linked to heart disease has been found by a team from Canada, Austria and America.

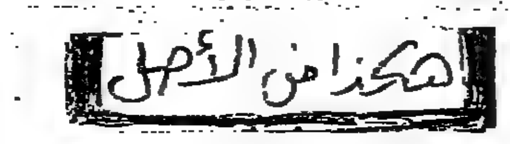
A protein on the surface of *several types of Chlamydia is* almost identical to a protein in myosin, the heart muscle, Dr Kurt Bachmaier, of Ontario Cancer Institute, and colleagues report in *Science*.

By mimicking a host protein, bacteria can fool the immune system into believing that they are friend rather than foe, but sometimes the disguise fails. In this case the invader is attacked and the protein being mimicked can fall victim to friendly fire.

Three types of Chlamydia are implicated: those responsible for a form of pneumonia; a sexually transmitted disease; and those found in bird droppings, which can also cause human infections.

Chlamydia infections are so common that almost everybody is likely to experience at least one during their lifetime, *the team says, although* symptoms may be barely noticeable. Whether such infections triggered heart disease in mice depended on genetic differences between the mouse strains.

In humans, they speculate, both genes and environmental factors — such as the classical risk factors of obesity, high blood cholesterol, inactivity and high blood pressure — may predispose some people to heart disease triggered by Chlamydia.



How safe is your holiday?

The growing demand for adventure holidays has led tour operators to venture into potentially dangerous territory despite the risks to tourists, says Edward Welsh

As I plunged into the sea off St Lucia, I realised that I was not the only devotee of sunset dips. In the distance I could see a silver perm, a pair of pearl earrings and matching necklace, all belonging to someone doggy-paddling. I splashed towards the bobbing figure. It was Lady Horlick.

She was on her annual holiday to St Lucia with her husband, Sir John, a scion of the bedtime-drink dynasty. When I joined them later they noted that as package holidays became the standard method of travel, the tourists visiting St Lucia had little ideas of the islands potential dangers.

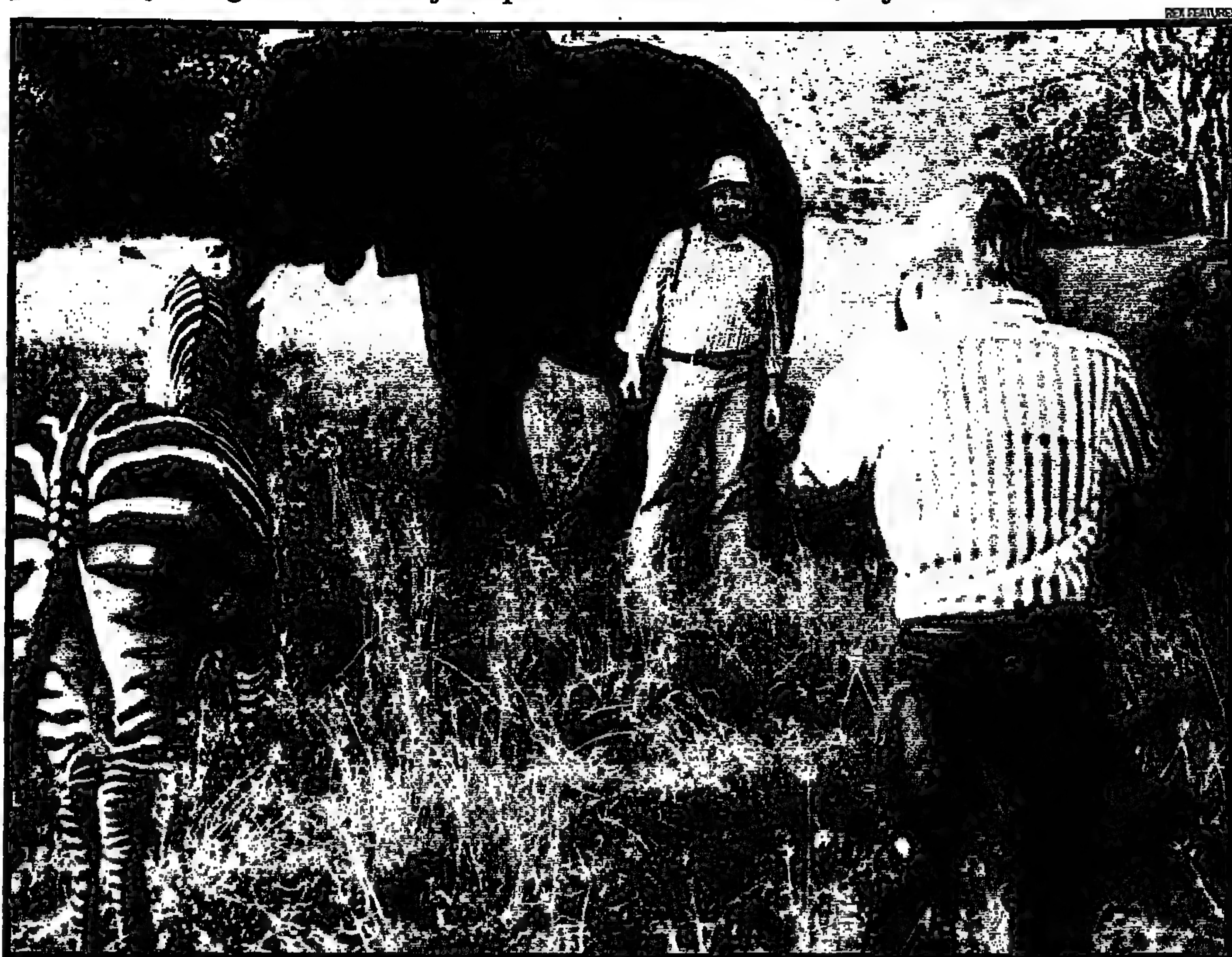
It was early 1994 and I was a travel reporter investigating the increasing level of crime experienced by British holidaymakers in the Caribbean and other exotic destinations. During my research it became clear that the expansion in mass tourism to such places, and the rise in attacks on travellers, was not unconnected. Since my swim with Lady Horlick, the number of tourists who become victims of crime in far-flung spots has continued to rise, culminating in yesterday's murder of four Britons in Uganda during a trip to watch gorillas in the Bwindi National Park.

'Travel is now in everyone's range. And tourists attract villains'

To some extent the emergence of this kind of mass tourism reflects changes at home; rising incomes and aspirations have stimulated demand for more exotic holidays. But the main driving force behind the development of remote and undeveloped spots as package holiday destinations has been tour operators themselves. Just as the fashion business comes up with a new "black" every season to encourage shoppers to spend money, so the travel industry each year creates a buzz about a fresh destination. I would regularly attend brochure launches by tour operators in swanky venues in West London where journalists were told, as if being let into a trade secret, the latest "in" haunt.

To come up with new destinations, however, package holiday companies constantly ignore lessons one assumes that they would have learnt in previous years from sending clients to potentially dangerous countries.

Michael Winner, who has been a regular visitor to Barbados for decades, has noticed the changes. "Travel used to be just for the rich. Now it's in everyone's range. People on holiday always assume that everything is going to be wonderful. Yet tourists attract villains."


REX FEATURES

Happy holidays: until tour companies become more honest about the potential risks of distant parts, tourists will continue to be killed

Traditionally, mass-market tourism, which first emerged in the Sixties, was centred on the Mediterranean, especially Spain. But in the mid-Eighties the likes of Thomson and Airtours became more ambitious and began operating flights outside Europe. Holiday prices, to countries that had once been the preserve of only the rich or backpackers, were slashed. Kenya, Thailand and Australia came within the reach of the Benidorm brigade. The most popular new destinations were Florida, Egypt and the Caribbean. The first was promoted as a family holiday destination, with a real magic castle, cheap hire cars and sandy beaches. The film *Death on the Nile* helped to sell Egypt, while the Caribbean was portrayed as a playground of the rich.

The reality was different. Many British holidaymakers flew into Miami, unaware that it was one of the most violent cities in America. Egypt was, and remains, no safer. With a vast, impoverished peasantry channelling its frustrations into religious fanaticism and outraged by Western tourists' dress code, the country failed to live up to its image as a luxurious, exotic setting for a movie based on an Agatha Christie novel. Many islands in the Caribbean suffer from the same problems.

But the new breed of long-distance traveller was naive. As the Horlickses had articulated only too plainly, experienced independent travellers and Britons who live in foreign countries where violence is endemic know that the best way to keep out of trouble is to avoid drawing attention to oneself. Where possible, they do as the locals do. When I first visited Manhattan the advice I received from New Yorkers was to act as if asleep while on the subway, a technique used by the locals to keep weirdos away. The newcomers were not so savvy.

Imagine the mind of a crack addict standing at a road junction in a poor ghetto in Miami around 1990 as an Oldsmobile pulled up. The car was new and the family inside was white, their camcorder and bags on the back seat. First the robbers waited for the tourists to get lost. Then they began hunting them down on the freeways and in their hotels. The package holiday industry bears a large share of the responsibility for Britons arriving in these countries, ignorant about what to expect and how to behave. Despite its eagerness to promote new destinations, it has been slow to warn of potential hazards, usually failing to provide even the most basic advice until after a Briton has been robbed, or worse.

By nature the holiday business is not inclined to draw attention to potential dangers because it fears creating a negative image in its brochures. The vast expansion of the package holiday industry up to the mid-Eighties was based on the image of carefree beach holidays in the sun. This approach was realistic at the time because the companies were selling packages to purpose-built resorts on the Costas. But although destinations have become more exotic, tour operators rarely issue warnings.

In the early Nineties tour operators did begin to address the dangers of holidaying in Florida, advising clients to keep a low profile and to adopt many of the survival techniques employed by independent travellers. The new policy was successful. Attacks on tourists dropped and have now almost disappeared. When a tourist is murdered abroad, tour operators always renew their charm offensive to travel journalists. In 1993, after a string of murders in Egypt, Thomas Cook invited me to cruise the Nile: this would demonstrate that the destination remained safe.

When tourists are killed, tour operators renew their charm offensive

Yet, tour operators never seem to learn and the consequences end up as front-page news. Despite the disasters experienced by travel companies in the "new" destinations of the late Eighties and early Nineties, tour operators followed with Russia, more of sub-Saharan Africa and previously remote parts of South America. Holidaymakers are reassured that the companies they are travelling with know about potential dangers. But until tour operators are more honest about the risks, holidaymakers will continue to be killed.

Michael Palin, who has done more than most television personalities to infect Britons with the travel bug, urges holidaymakers to swot up more before heading abroad. "Tour operators should give the fullest information possible, however unpalatable. You should take as much from life as possible but ensure that you are well-read before you leave," he says.

Which are the most dangerous destinations? **Jon Ashworth** reports

Ten days in Iran, just £2,000 each

Not long ago a fortnight on a beach in Spain was the limit of most people's foreign travel. Today's intrepid travellers would scoff at the thought. Hardly a corner of the world remains untouched for those with the money and inclination for adventure — even if it means risking your life.

As foreign travel has boomed, so the information available to travellers has expanded well beyond the cursory brochure. Control Risks, a London-based consultancy, provides country-by-country analysis for businessmen and holidaymakers planning forays into regions where the risks include kidnapping and terrorism.

Control Risks rates countries for political and security risk on a scale ranging from insignificant, with stable government and virtually no violent crime, to extreme, where law and order has broken down. It also provides a travel risk rating, updated weekly, and singles out problem regions and provinces.

A chillingly candid picture is provided in *Outlook 99*, the annual Control Risks global survey. Information is garnered from regional analysts and tailored for multinational corporations looking to do business in riskier countries.

Uganda is rated medium-risk: "internal unrest or violence frequently perpetrated by terrorists or criminals, though there are no areas completely outside the State's control." Allied Democratic Front rebels, it notes, are expected to continue attacks in western Uganda, while the Lord's Resistance Army's brutal campaign against rural communities and government supporters continues in the north.

The Ugandan Government is expected to declare an off-limits zone in the Ruwenzori Mountains, where foreigners were abducted by the ADF in mid-1998. This will add to the country's troubles by limiting precious tourist revenue — a familiar refrain throughout Africa. Neighbouring Rwanda is expected to slide further into anarchy, with fighting and massacres in rural areas.

Latin America tops the world's kidnap league, with Colombia and Mexico the worst offenders. Kidnapping rates have increased in the past five years, partly because kidnappers know that there is little chance that they will be caught. In Colombia, reported kidnappings rose by 13 per cent in 1997 to 1,822, including 33 foreigners, with total ransom demands of $74 million. A further 480 abductions were reported in the first half of 1998. Many kidnaps go unreported.

Colombia is the only country in Latin America where foreign executives are frequently targeted, with between 30 and 40 such abductions each year. In Mexico, criminal gangs mostly kidnap wealthy locals, although foreigners are occasionally targeted. Kidnap gangs frequently operate with the protection of both former and serving police officers. There were 700 reported kidnappings in Mexico in 1997.

In Peru, where Inca ruins and Andes trekking attract tourists, the Government was forced to pass emergency legislation in mid-1998 to combat a wave of kidnappings of wealthy Peruvians. Foreigners are not targeted for kidnap for ransom, but in Lima they face the threat of short-term abductions known locally as *secuestros al paso*. Victims are typically held for several hours and forced to withdraw money from cash dispensers.

Egypt, scene of one of the most brutal attacks so far on tourists, the 1997 Luxor massacre in which 58 people were killed, is rated low-risk, rising to medium-risk in Cairo, Luxor and Aswan.

Control Risks says that public revulsion at the Luxor massacre has undermined sympathy for Islamic militant groups, and it expects the security environment to improve.

Foreign-based militants in alliance with Osama bin Laden, the terrorist financier, have threatened to target American and Jewish interests in Egypt. Embassies are considered most at risk. Iran, which is open to Western tourists travelling in groups, is deemed low-risk in terms of security but high-risk politically, with fears that a power struggle between rival political factions will erupt into street conflict before the year is out.

South Africa is rated a medium security risk, with high-risk pockets around townships outside Durban, Cape Town and Johannesburg. Control Risks says that steps to combat South Africa's high crime rate may be a case of "too little, too late". Further uncertainty will accompany the general elections, expected in May.

Great uncertainty hangs over Indonesia, which has borne the brunt of the Asian economic crisis. Inflation is running at 80 per cent and interest rates are a crippling 50 per cent. Most companies are bankrupt, and the number of people earning less than £1 a day more than doubled from around 18 million in 1996 to 40 million or more by the end of 1998. The result has been a rapid spread of lawlessness and violent crime. Foreigners have been robbed, attacked and threatened in increasing numbers as criminal gangs become bolder and more ruthless. Other destinations in the region deemed high-risk include Papua New Guinea and Cambodia.

Trouble spots in the former Soviet Union include Kazakhstan, where the security environment is expected to deteriorate as social and economic divisions grow. Increasing violent crime in Almaty and other cities poses a growing threat to expatriate staff.

Yet there is no shortage of tour operators willing to take you off the beaten track. Yesterday, Exodus Travels in Balham, southwest London, was offering ten-day tours of Iran from £2,000 per person. Another potentially risky package involves travelling by truck through Mexico, Guatemala and Belize, staying in hotels but venturing into the jungle to inspect Mayan ruins. The 16-day tour costs from £1,275 per person.

Explore Worldwide, whose clients died in Yemen in December, is not currently running tours to that country. However, the Aldershot-based company hopes to resume visits to Yemen in October and is taking bookings for 15-day desert treks starting at £1,190 per person.

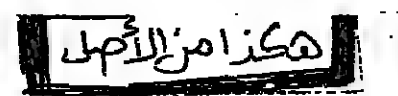
Explore has also temporarily suspended its Horn of Africa package, which involves extensive travel within Ethiopia, deemed one of the 15 most dangerous countries, with high-risk areas in Tigré province and near the border with Somalia. Explore hopes to resume 14-day tours of the region from October and is accepting bookings at £1,695 per person. A decision on whether to proceed with the tours will be taken nearer the time.

15 MOST DANGEROUS COUNTRIES

KEY TO RISKS: High H, Extreme E, Medium M, Low L. Figures updated February 22

	Political	Security	Travel
Afghanistan	E	E	E
Burundi	H	E	E
Congo (Brazzaville)	H	H	H
Congo (DRC)	H	H	H
Eritrea	L	E	E
Ethiopia	M	M	M
Georgia	M	M	M
Lebanon	L	L	L
Russia	M	M	M
Sierra Leone	H	E	E
Somalia	E	E	E
Sri Lanka	M	M	L
Sudan	M	M	M
Tajikistan	H	H	H
Yugoslavia (Fed Rep of)	M	M	M

Source: Control Risks Group



Ol' Dixie's Sixties struggles

The fight to overcome racism still divides the States

I love it when people complain that American culture is taking over. It hasn't even taken over the United States. It certainly hasn't taken over the South.

In my last week in the United States, after three years of reporting on the country as *The Times's* US Editor, I took a long drive through the Deep South, from Jackson, Mississippi, to Atlanta, Georgia. The States of the Old Confederacy still feel like a different country from the rest of the United States, certainly culturally. But the paradox of my time in America is that the South has been central to national politics.

The town of Selma, Alabama, gets straight to the point. Its favourite slogan is that its history runs "from the Civil War to Civil Rights". The red brick and ironwork of its centre has a certain elegance, unchanged from the 1870s. But the heart of the town is still deserted, strangled by a tight girdle of shopping malls. The town lives — to the extent it does — off its tourist trade. But the boast that is, presumably, intended to draw tourists to Selma is an odd one. Its role in both the Civil War and the Civil Rights struggle was hardly a happy one.

The Battle of Selma, in 1865, was a tragic last act in the War between the States. The South, which had had the better of the earlier exchanges, was facing eventual annihilation at the hands of the numerically superior North. Three thousand barely trained Confederate troops were crushed within hours by 9,000 Union soldiers. It was a final stand for the defenders of plantation culture and the system of slavery.



Bronwen Maddox

One hundred years later, Selma became a byword for the struggle to win voting rights and equal treatment for African-Americans. A Civil Rights march to the state capital Montgomery was halted as it crossed the Selma bridge. Marchers were knocked down with horses and beaten with batons. The brutal affair became known as Bloody Sunday, the first Civil Rights disturbance to be so named.

The town doggedly celebrates both conflicts. It is an example of the curious parallel tourist trails weaving across the Deep South: one for Civil Rights pilgrims, the other for those wistful about the lost romance of plantation days. This weekend the bridge — a grey, humpbacked arc over the black mud of the Alabama River — will be the site of an annual tribute to the Civil Rights movement, when many of the original marchers will retrace their steps.

At the same time, many of the old plantation houses are preparing for crowds coming to see the spring magnolia blossoms. The family friends who show visitors around the pillared white mansions — Confederate flag hanging over the porch — will tell you that they are having hoop skirts made for the annual re-enactments of the Civil War.

The juxtaposition says everything about the remaining ambivalence of many white people in the region to the American project of unifying the country. In both the Civil War and the Civil Rights movement, the federal Government insisted that if the United States was to be a single country, then there were certain principles which all must observe.

You will not, of course, hear many openly express racism. Those mourning the Confederacy deny hotly that they are implicitly condoning slavery. But the persistant segregation of the region is still striking, particularly in education, where all-white private schools sprang up in droves after the Civil Rights movement. The emphasis on the region's cultural separateness is constant, from the food, to the strong military tradition, to the emphasis on family.

That is not to say all the propaganda about a New South is false. The economic transformation of the past 30 years is real, at least for the Carolinas and Georgia. Atlanta is a miracle, its glass towers rising from the rich farms around it. But the poverty of the Mississippi Delta is still shocking, if alleviated these days by food stamps, better water supplies, and jobs from the new casinos. The rural slums of Alabama are, if anything, even more deprived. Families sit on a decaying porch behind punctured mosquito netting, looking blank when asked directions to the county seat ten miles away.

The South's persistent separateness has been, and remains, the greatest single influence on national party politics. The Civil War turned the region Democrat in a block, in furious protest against Abraham Lincoln's Republicans. The Civil Rights movement shattered the Democratic grip, sending naturally conservative politicians to the Republican fold. In the past year, their loathing for Bill Clinton's liberalism has fuelled the Lewinsky investigation, in the process threatening to split the Republican Party into neat northern and southern parts.

In the 2000 elections, the southern Republicans' call for states to have more independence from Washington is likely to be one of the loudest themes. And one of the most controversial; the states' rights brigade would have a more popular case were the region's history not so bitter, and the record of abuses of its independence not so long.

In many ways, the South is the least American part of America. The US's preoccupation with its cohesion has been a constant cause of transatlantic misunderstanding. It is easy, from Europe, to mock political correctness and to ignore the sores it tries to heal, however ineptly. But the efforts the US has made to glue the South into the rest of the country are at the heart of its unique experiment in persuading so many different people to live harmoniously together. If that failed, the entire project would have failed.

bronwen.maddox@the-times.co.uk



Licence to analyse

The future of spying is in cool assessment, not sexy intercepts

So George Smiley has a job after all. He may now be a pensioner with a hearing aid, but they bug his Zimmer frame and there is still something odd about the way he cleans his glasses. His Boswell, John le Carré, visits regularly at his Chelsea home, and they ramble on about "Testify" and some meeting with a Sanskrit professor in a cabbage field outside Minsk. "That night we turned the world upside down," Smiley recalls mistily, for the umpteenth time. "You know, George," says le Carré, "the Circus still needs you. Iraq has been another sigint balls-up. The lords and masters are toadying to Washington as usual, over Kosovo. I think Lacon's got Alzheimer's." He drums his bus pass on his knee. "Plus ça change . . ."

Speaking in Liverpool on Monday, David Cornwell (alias John le Carré) did his bit for the service where he once worked, and for his latest book. Sadly, Smiley is no more, but the ghost of this most endearing postwar anti-hero hovers over all the author's work, as if waiting to be called on at the last minute. Mr Cornwell reminisced about the stage on which most of his characters fretted their hour, the Cold War. And he vigorously affirmed that there is still work for spies to do. A man may commit many an error, but he does not poke his profession in the eye.

My brushes with the world of espionage have been few, but I can remember the lunch. It took place in the late-Eighties in the dining room of a dingy office block somewhere in Southwark. The then head of MI6, the genial Sir Colin McColl, was concerned that a series of spy scandals was revealing too much about his service — rarely to its credit — and damaging staff morale. He was discussing with ministers whether to go public, or in the jargon, "to avow". The fiction of his non-existence was unsustainable. The CIA had gone for avowal, and won Brownie points with Congress and lots more money. But how much to avow? Names and addresses? Budgets? Past operations?

Good lord, I replied, surely nothing of the sort. The politicians will rumble you. Open a window on this tidy little place and who knows what parliamentary committee will be round your neck, demanding persons and papers, budget cuts and reports on the Falklands and Iraq. You cannot be half secret. MI6 was like the monarchy. Damage the mystique and you are done for.

My hosts were most upset. Like their comrades at MI5, they were rather looking foward to going public. They could say who they were at parties. They could review spy books for *The Spectator* and perhaps go on *Any Questions?* They could cut a dash before a Commons select committee. I stuck to my guns. Read Machiavelli: the power of advice is in inverse proportion to the mystery of its source. Stay secret or you will become just another policeman.

Within a couple of years, MI6 had "come out" as the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS), and moved into a sumptuous palace by the river at Vauxhall. The head of MI5 appeared on *Any Questions?* The SIS's budget has been cut, its numbers reduced and it now races round Whitehall like Del Boy, asking for any work going. It will uncover terrorists, bust drug-dealers, unhack computers or spike superguns, for a price. This somehow lacks the imprimatur of the defence of Western civilisation.

Simon Jenkins

We shall never know whether the profession of spy shortened or prolonged the Cold War. The military-industrial complex grossly overestimated the Soviet military threat, and its secret arm must take some responsibility for that. Espionage was institutionalised alarmism. The Cold War, at least after 1985, was conducted by politicians largely for domestic consumption. I agree with Mr Cornwell's concern that we made the same mistake towards the ailing Soviet empire in the 1980s as was made towards Germany after the Great War. A nation that should have been quietly helped back from the brink of chaos was crushed, impoverished, crippled and humiliated. Russia and its satellites are now prey to every imaginable horror, probably offering a greater threat to the West than under communism.

My impression is that, during the Cold War, spying was a game acceptable to public opinion. But one that delivered far below expectation. Now that the war is over, spying against states with whom we are not at war is less acceptable, yet is more likely to be of value. I would happily pay to penetrate the cadres of Arab terrorism, to know who is selling arms to whom, which airline is risky, which economy is about to crash, which dictator is on the ropes and which will last for ever — if anyone can tell me.

Whether the SIS is the best equipped to offer this service is moot. Others, such as news media, could also bid for the contract. The catalogue of woes lately blighting Western Intelligence lengthens by the month: the failure to predict the Kuwait invasion; the failed destabilisation of Iraq; the failed containment of Slobodan Milosevic; the lunacy of calling a medicine factory in Sudan a threat to world security; the disastrous abuse of the UN weapons inspectorate. I assume that British Intelligence is responsible for ten years of spin that President Saddam Hussein is "on his last legs". Or if not, the spies have clearly lost their ability to persuade the Cabinet. Either way we are getting poor value for money.

The spy's oldest whinge, to which le Carré devoted his early talent, is that gathering intelligence is far easier than getting those in power to believe it. The greatest recent failing was the Argentinian invasion of the Falklands. But that was as much due to the fact that the Cabinet in 1982 did not want to know anything that might undermine its defence cuts. The same blind spot operated a year later when Washington refused, against all intelligence, to believe that the Russians had shot down a Korean airliner by accident. The White House had decided on a confrontation, and that was that. In 1990, nobody wanted to hear that Iraq might invade Kuwait, so nobody did.

Yet if spies cannot formulate their messages in a way that a government will listen, how will they validate their role? Espionage is the dark corner of the democratic garden, where sunlight never shines. In the past, government has felt free to pay for espionage and to disregard it. Now that the spies have gone public, they will be under increasing pressure to deliver on their £150 million budget. They must account for their mistakes, or the part they have played in the mistakes of government.

The lesson of arms-for-Iraq and Sierra Leone is that all those involved in public security must now watch every step. They are all civil servants. In his book, *The New Spies*, James Adams depicts the future spy as applying for prior approval from an oversight committee, reporting every move to an in-house lawyer and keeping chits that he has broken no international protocol. After Scott, he must certainly do nothing that might upset a hypersensitive British judge. He is more vulnerable to a race discrimination charge than to a Walther bullet. In other words his secrecy and possibly his service will be compromised.

If the "secret" and the "service" in SIS are at a discount, what is left? The answer is intelligence. In a world of small wars, do-good intervention and narcissist politicians, cool human assessment is more crucial than ever. Whence it comes may be moot: from the sharp-eyed journalist, the shrewd academic, the entrepreneur, the hacker or the spy. But the wisdom in spy circles is that "sigint" is out and "humint" is back: the Joe on the ground not the boffin in earphones. The way to get through to dumb politicians is not with sexy intercepts, but with convincing analysis. Assessment is the future of the spy.

So yes, George, the Circus needs you. That Robin Cook is dropping clangers every minute and it's all hands on deck. Britain could soon be fighting three wars at once. All that stands between the nation and disaster is intelligence.

comment@the-times.co.uk



Wrong Way

STIFF gins in the clubhouse at Royal Lytham and St Annes, as locals threaten to unveil the Les Dawson Way. Plans to honour the chumpy comedian — a yokel who met his mother-in-law in the sky in 1993 — with a new road link to the M55 have split the town.

Dawson's widow, Tracy, backs the council's plan, as does local sort Bill Beaumont and the mayor, Anne Smith: "Les did a great deal for this town."

Less earthy sorts are quaking: "I just don't think his humour is very us," suggests one. A sample goes: "My mother-in-law said she would dance on my grave, so I told her I'm being buried at sea." Lytton Goodwin, Royal Lytham's club secretary, says: "I would much prefer the Seve Ballesteros Way."

OUR grandest threatrical dame grumbles that she is not offered sexy roles. Judi Dench, 65, says she is overlooked for parts enjoyed by a recent co-star, Gwyneth Paltrow (both below): "I would like to play someone glamorous. I don't know why I get dragon roles which are excellent to play, but I'm nothing like that in life. It would be great to dress up in a nice dress with make-up and look like a sex symbol for once."



■ FRANK DOBSON is chasing nurses in Moscow. With platoons of Filipina "angels" marching on to our wards (recruits at a Surrey hospital have been sent to learn English after puzzlement over terms such as "kicking the bucket"), Dobbo's yawning recruitment gap is to be plugged: my man with the MiG missile has been asked to find 2,000 fresh young Muscovites to slip into starched whites. They are being tempted by free flights, visas, beds, £12,000 per year and freedom from the medical demands of Boris Yeltsin. I'm just a little worried about the Russian bedside manner.

MAJOR RONALD FERGUSON is back in the saddle: the playboy polo player is to sell a virility drug. Fergie's father is to make a video promoting a ginseng cocktail to be shown in America. "Yanks are wild about him," I am assured. After his late-night visits to the Wigmore Club some years ago, I am sure they are not alone.

■ BERYL BAINBRIDGE wants regional accents "wiped out". The author's final solution stems from her view that accents sound stupid. The Islington-sounding Liverpudlian wants elocution lessons for all pupils, saying she succeeded only by sounding southern.

Coming in for a "lorra" criticism: Cilla Black, whose Liverpudlian accent sounds "fake".



A THEATRICAL knight on the town. Sir Ian McKellan relaxed after playing in The Tempest *with karaoke in a Leeds pub: "There was no George Formby music, but it was jolly anyway," he tells me.*

■ FUN in the sun, by Jack Straw. My memsahib tells me that when the Home Secretary popped over to India for new year, he holed up in his room at the Lake Palace Hotel (William Hague's honeymoon suite): "I felt sorry for him. His wife sat by the pool enjoying herself. He stayed in his room, emerging rarely and in formal dress for dinner."

A PHONEY war to be Liberal Democrat leader has begun three months before official battle is allowed to commence. Charles Kennedy, I hear, has made the bespectacled Paul Keetch, MP, his campaign organiser. Meanwhile, the dashing Don Foster, reckoned to be a rival by some, has hired a 24-year-old City high-flyer to co-ordinate his fight. Poor Paddy.

JASPER GERARD

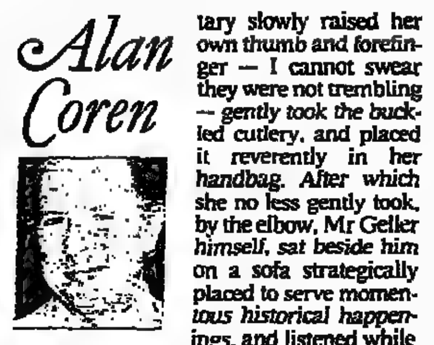
'When Ann Widdecombe met Uri Geller, each was totally gobsmacked by the other — you could have heard a pin bend'

Some of you may find it a mite spooky that, in all the many hundreds of tête-à-têtes which we have shared over the years, I have never once mentioned that I was a bit clairvoyant. You are the some, of course, who are yourselves a bit clairvoyant, and who have murmured, at this moment or that, out of the blue, "something tells me he's a bit clairvoyant". The rest of you have never given it a second thought, because, lacking the gift, you never gave it the first one; so it is to you in particular that I address myself today, partly because you are the ones who need convincing, partly because the others already know what I am going to say.

I am going to say that, for several days now, you have been wondering about Ann Widdecombe. Uncanny, eh? It gets better: I can even tell you what you were wondering. You were wondering whether, when last week she declared to the new Register of MPs' Interests that she had been given a bent BBC teaspoon, the Shadow Health Secretary was simply being scrupulously honest, or whether she was, less simply, deploying honesty unscrupulously in order to wind everybody up. Well, I am here to gainsay both options; and I am here to do it because I was there to do it, on the afternoon of December 10, 1998, in the hospitality suite of BBC Pebble Mill in Birmingham, whither the *dramatis personae* involved had convened to play *Call My Bluff*, and thus where Miss Widdecombe met, for the first time, Mr Uri Geller.

It was, in every sense, a magic moment. As their team captain, it had fallen to me to introduce my two illustrious guests to one another, and I have to say that nothing less than the aptly metaphysical John Donne will suffice to describe what happened next: their eye-beames twisted, and did thredde their eyes, upon one double string. More astonishing yet, each was, quite literally, gobsmacked by the other: eerily enwrapped, the two people in the country hitherto least likely to be lost for words, found not a one.

Alan Coren

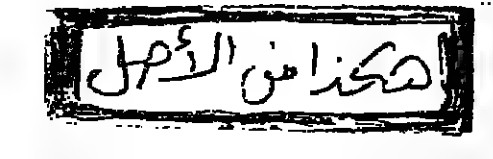


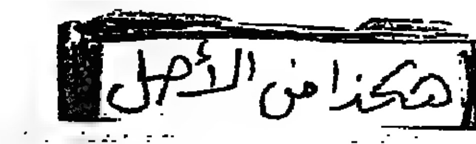
You could have heard a pin bend. And then, uncannily — until you recall that he is as clairvoyant a cove as you can shake a Ouija board at — Mr Geller divined precisely what Miss Widdecombe was thinking, picked up a BBC teaspoon from the table beside them, held it aloft between thumb and forefinger, and made it droop.

Whereupon the Shadow Secretary slowly raised her own thumb and forefinger — I cannot swear they were not trembling — gently took the buckled cutlery, and placed it reverently in her handbag. After which she no less gently took, by the elbow, Mr Geller himself, sat beside him on a sofa strategically placed to serve momentous historical happenings, and listened while he talked. And how he talked! And how she listened! They might have been Othello and Desdemona, he rabbiting on about anthropophagi and men whose heads do grow beneath their shoulders, she letting herself be bowled over by his wondrous stories into helpless captivation. I did not, of course, eavesdrop on all that was said, but from the disparate fragments gleaned as I refilled a cup or offered egg-and-cress, I could sense that a self-portrait was emerging, despite his fabled modesty, of a man of both great spiritual depth and great material achievement, a man able to read and memorise ten books in a morning before transporting himself across the planet in nano-seconds to heal the inexplicably sick, pluck a global corporation from the red, dowse unerringly for oil and bauxite, adjust an errant satellite, and all this without first dashing into a phonebox to move his Y-fronts to the outside.

Okay, you say, you claim to be a bit of a clairvoyant, so what was the wide-eyed Miss Widdecombe thinking while Uri was telling her all this? Okay, I reply, she was thinking: here is an internationally recognised byword with a full head of lustrous hair and not a trace of either paunch or dubious Yorkshire accent, who has risen to transglobal heights of wealth and popularity by persuading countless millions that he can perform miracles; here is a glamour-puss who could not only cut NHS waiting-lists at a stroke by the laying-on of hands in a thousand places at once and raise education standards to the top of the international league by telepathising the speed-read *Britannica* into every infant brain, but also repair every voter's clock, tumble-drier and toaster just by grinning at them from the TV screen and snapping his fingers.

Voters? Oh yes. That is what she was thinking. She was thinking: here, at last, is a true leader. That is why she has declared her interest. We shall hear more of this anon. Mark my words. Watch this spoon.







DIARY

Wrong Way

THE FIRST TEST

Excess pensions baggage and the 'European social model'

Tony Blair delivered a stirring sermon in Milan yesterday to his Socialist eurozone partners, pleading with them to graft the dynamism of America's enterprise culture onto the "European social model". This is an ambitious transplant operation he has in mind. For French Socialists, it is an article of faith that Anglo-Saxon *capitalisme sauvage* is a menace to the humane politics of "social cohesion". So it is for Oskar Lafontaine, Germany's Finance Minister. And this week's abrupt adjournment of the EU negotiations on agricultural reform underlines how little happens without the backing of these two countries.

The Prime Minister's words were intended, however, for an audience beyond the EU socialist leaders gathered to launch a joint platform for elections to the European Parliament. Whatever hopes Mr Blair may entertain of persuading the European Left to embrace politically difficult and ideologically suspect reforms, it is even more important to him to convince British voters that enough change is on the way to guarantee the euro's success. For without proof that the eurozone is overhauling bankrupt pensions systems, cutting taxes and public spending and removing the welfare disincentives to work, he dare not contemplate a British referendum on joining EMU.

But Mr Blair has a problem. The more he insists on "the fundamental weaknesses of the European economy", the more he calls not only for new policies but for a revolution in the eurozone's political culture, the deeper the gulf between Continental and British, let alone American, thinking and practice is seen to be. Three key indicators provide a crude measurement of the welfare state's grip on eurozone prospects: public spending as a proportion of GDP, overall tax levels and the weight of social security contributions. Eurozone public spending last year averaged 49.1 per cent, a fifth higher than British levels and nearly a third above that of America. It is no coincidence that, in high-spending Germany and France, civil service administration, excluding education, health and social work, accounts for 9 *per cent of those currently employed — half* as many again as in Britain — or that in most of the eurozone, the number of people working fulltime in the private sector is lower than it was 20 years ago.

The difference in tax burdens between the eurozone's 43.4 per cent and Britain's 38.6 per cent may appear less dramatic, and both are a world away from America's 31.5 per cent. But it can take years to shrink public spending enough to bring taxes down by only 2 or 3 per cent; and on most projections, the tax gap between Britain and the eurozone is set to rise, not fall.

To see why, look at the relative burden of social security contributions — 9.4 per cent of GDP in the US, only 7.7 per cent in Britain, but 17 per cent in euroland and nearly 20 per cent in Germany and France. The main cause of this disparity is the, for once aptly named, "pensions timebomb". A properly funded system requires reserves of at least 30 months wages for each person covered — more where, as in Italy, France and Germany, workers can retire earlier on full pensions than they do in Britain. In Italy and France, current reserves are just over a month.

FIVE TESTS FOR EUROPE

Britain's future costs are under control; but in every eurozone country except Ireland, they are set on a steeply rising curve. By 2040, when there will be twice as many pensioners relative to the working-age population, they will absorb 14.3 per cent of GDP in France, 18.4 per cent in Germany and 21.4 per cent in Italy. These books will not balance without a mix of cuts in pensions, higher contributions and general taxes, steep compensating cuts in public spending, large transfers from the relatively solvent eurozone countries or — the nuclear option — inflation. All will be unpopular. Reform has barely begun.

For the eurozone, the implications are financial instability, groaning budgets and still higher taxes. In some areas there is patchy change. In Germany, the Economics Ministry is frustrated by what officials call "the ayatollah tendency" around Herr Lafontaine. Some French bureaucrats now think of liberalisation, but their ministers will not talk about it; the Italians and Dutch do a bit of both. But pensions reform and tax reductions are indispensable to the eurozone's viability, tests that must be met *before Britain could think of joining. Yet on* pensions, Mr Blair had not a single word to say in Milan. This is simply not serious.

DEATH IN UGANDA

A successful African state with very dangerous borders

The ugly deaths of eight Western tourists, including four British citizens, in Uganda yesterday are a salutary reminder of the dangers of what is now modern travel. The responsibility lies not with the company concerned, the Foreign Office, or the Ugandan authorities, but squarely with the Interahamwe militias, now resident in the Congo, who were the cause of more than one million deaths in Rwanda almost five years ago. This incident, coming soon after the loss of three British lives in Yemen, may lead some to conclude that they should not stray so far from home. That would be unfortunate. Aspiring tourists should still be ambitious, but also selective.

It is particularly sad that Uganda should witness such an atrocity. That country has been one of Africa's few success stories in recent times. It has witnessed an economic transformation since a wave of reform was initiated by Yoweri Museveni 12 years ago. In 1987, economic growth was barely 1 per cent and inflation was at 256 per cent. A decade later both numbers stood at approximately 7 per cent. President Museveni has also sought to build substantial regional co-operation through such innovations as the Common Market for East and South Africa and the East African Co-operation and Development strategy. Kampala has become one of Africa's safer capitals.

These economic advances have been held back by politics. This part of East Africa is marked by colonial boundaries that cut across traditional tribal lines, thus providing natural constituencies for various defeated and insurgent troops from several nations. The current Ugandan Government is opposed by, among others, the West Nile Bank Front, the Allied Democratic Forces (who are neither allied nor democratic), and the remnants of other rebel organisations, such as the Lord's Resistance Army, and even a few remaining admirers of Idi Amin. These factions are usually based across the border in the Congo and are often supported by Sudan.

In the latest twist these armies have found themselves in alliance with Hutu exiles from Rwanda and the administration of Laurent Kabila in the Congo. This is especially paradoxical as President Kabila could never have achieved power in the first place without the backing of Rwanda and Uganda. Mr Kabila has proved utterly incapable of either building a broad consensus for his own rule in Kinshasa or preventing others from using his country as a base for armed operations. Until this situation is resolved, the borders in this part of Africa will remain perilous places.

That is especially true for tourists, and for British visitors in particular. London and Washington are perceived as sympathetic to the Tutsi governments of Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda, while the Hutus have traditionally fallen within the French sphere of influence. If there is a wider lesson to be drawn, however, it is in the long shadow still cast by the Interahamwe over the area. In 1994 the West refused to act against, at first even to acknowledge, the extraordinary genocide in Rwanda — the worst action of its kind since the Second World War. Those who died in the Bwindi Park have been, in a sense, the victims of the past indifference of outsiders. It will not help Uganda however, if tourists decide to boycott the country completely.

ROYAL BEEFEATER

A Prince strikes a blow for common sense

The Prince of Wales picked over a bone of contention this week when he sampled a banned cut of beef in a Newport hotel. But he appeared unconcerned by any controversy he aroused. "I am only sorry that so many of you have had to wait, building up an enormous appetite whilst having to look at this huge hunk of roast beef," he said to the farmers and civic dignitaries assembled round the offending rib. "Shortly you will be able to taste it like I did," he continued. "It's absolutely delicious".

The Prince's gesture spoke louder than political debate. The time has come for the Government's ludicrous ban on beef on the bone to be given the chop. The public may have found it understandable more than a year ago when Jack Cunningham, then Minister for Agriculture, first imposed it. Emerging bloodied from a bout with BSE, he could not afford to underestimate any risk to public health and needed to court European Union opinion. A new Labour administration sought to dissociate itself from the ditherings of its Tory predecessor by maintaining the ban as proof of its commitment to consumer interests.

In the wake of initial worries, closer scientific investigation has proved that the chances of contracting BSE from beef on the bone are rather less than negligible. The likelihood of being struck by lightning is about 60 times greater. So why should farmers, butchers and gourmands alike, their lives already put out of joint by the BSE crisis, be further burnt by this ban? The Government should have made a clean cut with its excessively cautious policy several months ago.

The Prince of Wales carved a clear path when he accepted and enjoyed a choice morsel of banned meat this week. Unlike John Gummer, criticised for feeding his daughter a burger, the Prince is a cut above the political fray. His decision to partake was purely personal. But if beef on the bone makes a feast fit for a Prince, then surely common sense might safely follow his example. The beef on the bone ban should now be ended. Arise Sirloin.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

A role for Britain in Europe without joining EMU?

From Sir John Hoskyns

Sir, Of course we must stay out of EMU. But if we succeed in that, we simply arrive at the next question. Is it really possible for Britain, one of the four big economies of Europe, and the fifth largest in the world, to remain forever as a member of the EU while being outside its most important project — political union?

Does anyone, outside the Government and Clarke, Heseltine, etc, think, or pretend to think, that we can join EMU and not in the end sign up to Europe's statist fiscal-legal-welfare-employment menu in its entirety?

It may be that the Government has concluded, behind closed doors, that such a position, as euroland's permanently grumbling appendix, is unsustainable for more than a few years, while withdrawal from the EU is now not merely hazardous and difficult, but legally and technically impossible, however much the electorate might one day want it. This would explain the relentless propaganda campaign to persuade the public (consistently misled by politicians for the last 30 years) that joining EMU is what they want, rather than what they're going to have to accept.

Debate about EMU will be difficult if mention of withdrawal from the EU is not permitted.

I have more confidence in Britain's imperfect arrangements than I do in euroland's out-of-touch politicians, undemocratic institutions, dubious electoral systems and legal processes, financial corruption, creative accounting, secrecy, administrative incompetence, mercantilist instincts, foreign-policy confusion, institutionalised animosity towards the United States and Charlemagne-flavoured delusions of empire.

Ever since the arrival of Jacques Delors in Brussels in 1985, the accelerating drive to political integration seems to have been the cause of this growing European sickness, not its cure.

Is this great project really Britain's cup of tea? If we can't change it for the better, will it change us for the worse? Is it perhaps already doing so? Sooner or later we will have to talk about these things. It is called "thinking the unthinkable" and has been rather successful for both Labour and Conservative parties over the past 20 years.

I am glad that Mary Ann Sieghart (article, "Young, free and anti-single currency", February 26) is sceptical about EMU. I, too, am "fed up with EMU opponents being caricatured as swivel-eyed xenophobes". Opponents of ERM in 1989, and proponents of trade union reform in 1979, or privatisation in 1983, felt the same. At present, those who dare to think beyond the EMU issue receive similar treatment.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HOSKYNS,
Windrush, Great Waldingfield,
Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 0RZ.
February 28.

From Lord Tebbit

Sir, Mary Ann Sieghart is absolutely right. Those who wish to see the European Union collapse should support economic and monetary union. The stresses it will impose are more likely to destroy the European Union amidst a welter of recrimination and extreme nationalism than to unite the member states in a stable and prosperous state.

This general argument has also been made by myself and others such as Lord Lawson. Like John Major, I would oppose British subordination within a European state and since that is the inevitable consequence of entry into EMU, like Mary Ann Sieghart, I oppose British entry.

What should worry Mary Ann Sieghart, as it worries me, is just how the European Union could adjust to allow Britain to be a co-signatory of the Treaty of Rome with a federal republic consisting of a dozen or more other European states.

Yours faithfully,
TEBBIT,
House of Lords.
March 1.

From Mr Shahid A. Juned

Sir, Peter Riddell is to be congratulated on his objective analysis of EMU (March 1). The pick-and-choose scenario pursued by Lord Owen and his allies is not compatible with being at the heart of Europe. It will put Britain in a "half-in, half-out" situation with no influence in formulating key economic policies.

Yours faithfully,
SHAHID A. JUNED,
15 Fenwick Close,
Alcester, Warwickshire B49 6JZ.
March 1.

From Mr Idris R. Francis

Sir, President Thomas Jefferson said, almost 200 years ago (long enough, one would have thought, for word to have reached Westminster), that any nation which gives up its freedom in pursuit of economic advantage deserves to lose both. This is why the UK Independence Party fights not just against the undoubted economic dyslexia of EMU, but for our freedom and sovereignty under laws and policies debated in English at Westminster by those whom we elect and remove.

Far from being a "busted flush" (report, March 1) UKIP has been rejuvenated under its new democratically elected leader, and has in place a full slate of candidates for the June European elections, all unequivocally opposed to EMU and in favour of complete withdrawal from the European soviet state being planned by the corrupt, incompetent and undemocratic Brussels *regime*.

Yours sincerely,
IDRIS R. FRANCIS,
Sunny Bank, Church Lane,
West Meon, Petersfield,
Hampshire GU32 1LD.
March 1.

From Mr Brian A. Smith

Sir, Tony Blair favours the euro on grounds of efficiency without concern for the wider issue of sovereignty, advocates genetically modified crops as being safe to eat without mentioning the environment, and enfeebles the House of Lords without establishing an effective alternative.

Is there a pattern?

Yours sincerely,
BRIAN A. SMITH,
14 St Andrew's Close,
Stapleford,
Cambridge CB2 5DX.
brian.a.smith@dial.pipex.com
February 24.

From Mr F. W. Hedin

Sir, Members of The Pro Euro Conservative Party state (letter, February 26) that "... it is in Britain's interest that monetary union should not lead to political centralisation ...". Surely, these two terms are synonymous. EMU will inevitably lead to political centralisation.

Yours sincerely,
F. W. HEDIN,
125 Clarence Gate Gardens,
Glentworth Street, NW1 6AL.
March 1.

From Mr Andrew Wilson

Sir, When the directors of Britain plc (an international trading company battling — with some success — to reduce its cost base in increasingly competitive global markets) recommend a merger with 14 other companies with similar or worse performance and prospects, and some very dodgy balance sheets, this shareholder would advise extreme caution and a full strategic review.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW WILSON,
70 Avenue de President Wilson,
92058 La Defense, Paris.
a.wilson@girassol.com
March 2.

ITV's success

From the Chief Executive of ITV

Sir, With a grand sweep of his pen, William Rees-Mogg ("We haven't a prayer", March 1) dismisses the efforts of the Church, the Labour Party and ITV to be relevant in *fin de siècle* Britain.

I'm saddened that Lord Rees-Mogg can find nothing in the ITV schedule that pleases him. I suspect he's not trying all that hard.

Audience research may be the dunce's answer to the impressions of the good and the great but it indicates *that despite the immense competition* (and I agree — the immense pressure to aim low), ITV is succeeding in presenting an array of programmes that is finding favour with the whole nation, the highly educated included.

On Wednesday the Lords will debate the future of public service broadcasting. I hope their Lordships will acknowledge that whilst ITV does not try to flatter an intellectual elite its public service is expressed through a mighty breadth of diversity, an incomparable regional service and massive investment in original British production.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD EYRE,
Chief Executive, ITV,
200 Gray's Inn Road, WC1X 8HF.
March 2.

News at 6.30

From Mr Peter T. Hughes, QC

Sir, May I suggest to all those who share my sense of bereavement at the loss of *News at Ten* with Mr Trevor McDonald (report, March 2) that they record the replacement ITN news bulletin at 6.30pm and play it at 10pm.

Yours faithfully,
PETER T. HUGHES,
3 Paper Buildings,
Temple, EC4Y 7EU.
March 2.

Dressing the part

From Mr Patrick Devine

Sir, Jane Shilling's dilemma ("I haven't a clue what to wear now I work at home", February 26) is easily solved for us few men fortunate enough to partake in the school run. A *tie indicates one is going on to one's* workplace while an open collar indicates other activities for the day ahead.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK DEVINE,
Falcon, La Couture,
St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 2DZ.
February 27.

Beer trade under threat

From the Chairman of the Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association and others

Sir, As the Chancellor of the Exchequer ponders the finer points of the forthcoming Budget (report, March 1), let him consider that leaving the level of excise duty on beer where it is, let alone introducing another increase, will be bad news for the British beer drinker, the British pub, and all who support them.

It will be good news in the French Treasury, among French businesses and, in this country, to well organised gangs of criminals.

Beer duty in the UK is 33p a pint compared to 5p in France. Over 1.5 million pints a day are brought into the UK and Customs and Excise estimate that three quarters of this is illegally resold without paying British duty. On the eve of the 21st century we have successfully revived the 18th-century crime of smuggling on a large scale. This is causing pubs to close and is costing jobs elsewhere.

In 1998, an additional £35 million had to be allocated to Customs and Excise to help enforce the law. Ironically, in the same year, the French Chancellor received around £34 million in taxes from the cross-Channel beer trade.

The only solution is a reduction in beer duty in the UK. Since 1992, every other country in the EU has moved towards a "target rate" to reduce the differentials which make smuggling profitable. Only the UK insists on moving away from that target.

Yours,
MICHAEL FOSTER,
Chairman, Brewers and Licensed Victuallers Association,
MIKE BENNER,
Head of Campaigns,
Campaign for Real Ale,
BILL SHARP,
Chairman, Parliamentary Committee of Licensed Victuallers Associations,
Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association,
42 Portman Square, W1H 0BB.
March 1.

Dangers to drivers

From Mr J. Malcolm Gordon

Sir, You report (February 27) that the new Highway Code warns of the dangers of using mobile phones and high-tech equipment while driving, but stops short of a total ban which safety campaigners such as the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) had pressed for.

Since it is suggested by RoSPA that danger exists up to ten minutes after a call whilst people are mulling over their conversation, has any similar research been done on the effect on drivers' concentration of listening to radio plays, quiz shows or, especially, pop music at mind-numbing (and ear-damaging) sound levels?

Yours faithfully,
J. MALCOLM GORDON,
4 Warners Avenue,
Hoddesdon,
Hertfordshire EN11 8LR.
February 27.

Royal beef

From Mr A. Guy Harding

Sir, What luxury to live with no greater worry than whether the Prince of Wales may have been irresponsible in thanking his hosts for a meal (report, March 2).

Yours faithfully,
GUY HARDING,
The Dovecote,
Church Street, Olney,
Buckinghamshire MK46 4AD.
March 2.

Dr Jenner's cow

From Mr Robin Otter

Sir, You reproduce today the Royal Mail's millennium stamp featuring Peter Brookes's delightful representation of a cow to celebrate Dr Edward Jenner's discovery of the smallpox vaccine.

It may be of interest that the particular cow Dr Jenner used was a Gloucester, now also a rare breed but a most beautifully marked red-brown cow, with a distinctive white stripe on the back (finchback), white tail and belly. The actual hide is displayed in the Gloucester Folk Museum and Gloucester cattle can be seen at many venues, particularly the annual Three Counties Show at Malvern in June.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN OTTER (Chairman,
Gloucester Cattle Society, 1973-75),
The Grange, Kemerton,
Tewkesbury GL20 7JE.
March 1.

From Mr Beverley Morgan

Sir, I suggest that the cut of Welsh beef enjoyed by the Prince of Wales on St David's Day be named Charles-lebone forthwith.

Yours faithfully,
BEVERLEY MORGAN,
9 Winterstoke Gardens,
Mill Hill, NW7 2RA.
March 2.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046, e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

BMJ's celebration of sex and health

From the Editor of the British Medical Journal

Sir, I share some of the "despair" of Dr Christopher Wiltshire (letter, February 27) that the *British Medical Journal*, "that august organ of the medical establishment", could not publish sexually explicit pictures *without giving a warning on the* cover. But I think that we did the right thing.

There is no problem with publishing horrible pictures of genitalia covered in warts and syphilitic chancres. The problem comes with erotic pictures that celebrate sexuality. Many doctors see these as "gratuitous" and seven have written to me to complain. One asked to have his journal stopped while the series continued.

We published the erotic pictures for two main reasons. Firstly, we did so because our series was on sexual health not disease. We wanted to encourage doctors to think positively about sexuality, recognise the fundamental importance of sexuality in health, and feel as comfortable talking to their patients about orgasms as about bleeding piles.

Secondly, we wanted to demonstrate to doctors the enormously wide range of normal sexuality. Doctors have too often in the past made the mistake of providing treatment for what is perfectly normal sexual behaviour.

Instead of despairing at the warnings on the cover Dr Wiltshire should rejoice in the fact that we published the pictures at all. We certainly would not have done so ten years ago.

(Your readers might like to know that on our website the sex articles receive around 25,000 hits a week, whereas some others receive only 300. Warnings are good for business.)

Yours in celebration of sexuality,
RICHARD SMITH,
Editor, *BMJ*,
BMA House,
Tavistock Square, WC1H 9JR.
March 1.

Origins of the kilt

From Mr Aitken Fyall

Sir, I am sorry to disillusion my fellow Scots regarding our nationalistic claims to the kilt (reports and leading article, February 27).

Hugh Trevor-Roper, writing in *The Invention of Tradition* (Cambridge University Press, paperback edition, 1997), attributes its creation to an English Quaker from Furness, Lancashire, circa 1730.

Thomas Rawlinson, an iron-master, became aware of the restrictions on work-rate of the cumbersome, all-enveloping *breacan* or belted plaid, worn by the Highlanders at his iron-ore furnace at Glengarry. He commissioned a regimental tailor in Inverness to design a more practical garment. The result was the *felie beg, philibeg* or "small kilt".

As ceremonial dress, the kilt was popularised by Sir Walter Scott while masterminding the state visit to Edinburgh of George IV in 1827, and later by Prince Albert. To quote Trevor-Roper, "the fashion spread", to be taken up by "Anglicised Scottish peers, improving gentry, well-educated Edinburgh lawyers, and prudent merchants of Aberdeen".

May we now expect the beginning of the new millennium to be brightened by a vivid splash of kilted colour, worn not only by the Scottish parliament but by their counterparts in Cardiff and Westminster?

Yours sincerely,
AITKEN FYALL,
22 Bron y Glyn,
Bronwydd,
Carmarthen SA33 6JB.
june@fyall22.freeserve.co.uk
March 1.

Right to roam

From Mr Peter B. Brown

Sir, Kate Ashbrook, chairman of the Ramblers' Association Access Committee (letter, February 27), maintains that 85 per cent of the population (which must be approximately 40 million people) want freedom to roam.

Funny that: every day my wife and I go for walks in the countryside, always using public rights of way, which are often across open land and through fields, yet very rarely do we meet any other walkers. Where are these millions?

Yours faithfully,
PETER B. BROWN,
27 Isles Court, Ramsbury,
Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 2QW.
February 27.

The demise of denim

From Mrs Joan Bosonnet

Sir, I note that there is a drop in the demand for and manufacture of jeans (report, February 24).

It seems to be an era which I have lived through without becoming part of. I am 64 and have never had a pair of jeans.

I have never disapproved of them, and my son and daughters wear them all the time. I just felt they were rather cardboardy things.

Yours faithfully,
JOAN BOSONNET,
The Old House Cottage,
Pyrford Road, Pyrford GU22 8UE.
February 25.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 2: The Queen held an Investiture this morning at Buckingham Palace.

Lady Dugdale has succeeded Lady Elton as Lady In Waiting to The Queen.

March 2: The Duke of Edinburgh today visited the British Equestrian Trade Fair Association International Fair at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.

His Royal Highness was met by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the West Midlands (Mr Robert Taylor).

The Duke of Edinburgh, First Honorary Liveryman, this evening attended the Worshipful Company of Engineers' Election Court Meeting and Dinner at The City of London Club, 19 Old Broad Street, London EC2.

CLARENCE HOUSE
March 2: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Patron, British Equine Veterinary Association, this evening received the Trustees and recipients of The Queen Mother Student Travel Award.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 2: The Duke of York this morning arrived in Ho Chi Minh City and was received by Her Majesty's Ambassador to Vietnam (Mr David Fall).

Afterwards, His Royal Highness called on the Chairman of Ho Chi Minh People's Committee, Mr Vo Viet Thanh.

This afternoon, The Duke of York attended a lunch aboard *HMS Boxer*.

This afternoon, His Royal Highness attended a reception aboard *HMS Boxer*.

Later, The Duke of York attended a dinner and the UK-Vietnam Fashion Show at the Sofitel Hotel.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 2: The Princess Royal, President, The Rural Housing Trust, this morning attended the "Growing Older in the Countryside" conference at the Heritage Motor Centre, Banbury Road, Gaydon, Warwickshire, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Warwickshire (Mr Martin Dunne).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon officially opened Arburg Limited's new United Kingdom Headquarters at Tachbrook Park Drive, Warwick.

The Princess Royal, President, the British Horse Society, afterwards opened the BHS Rescue Centre, Stonecroft Equestrian Centre Limited, Stonecroft Farm, *Kineton Road, Oxhill, Warwickshire.*

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
RICHMOND PARK
March 2: Princess Alexandra this evening attended a Gala Dinner at St James's Palace, London, to mark the 30th Anniversary of Her Royal Highness's Patronage of the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal will visit Oracle Corporation UK's headquarters at Oracle Parkway, Thames Valley Park, Reading, at 10.30; as president, the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, will visit Reading and Central Berkshire Carers Centre "Support for Rural Carers" event at Theale Medical Centre, Englefield Road and the Kirby Room, St Luke's Church, Englefield Road, Theale, Berkshire at noon; will open Bradbury House, Berkshire Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre, 23a August End, Brock Gardens, Reading, at 2.30; and as president, Save the Children Fund, will attend a reception for Wessex Walks volunteers at Buckingham Palace at 5.30.

South Glamorgan Lieutenancy

The following have been appointed Deputy Lieutenants for South Glamorgan:

Councillor M. Drake, Mrs H. March, Lady Pill, Major B. Schwartz, Councillor F.J. Smith, Mr B.T. Williams.

Lecture

Johnson Society
Mr Patrick Hanks, Chief Editor of Current English Dictionaries, Oxford University Press, was the speaker at a lecture of the Johnson Society held last night in the Guildhall, Lichfield, to mark the anniversary of the departure from Lichfield of Samuel Johnson and David Garrick. Mr W.R. Dunsmore, chairman of the society, presided.

Dinners

Institute of Wastes Management
Mr Brian Briscoe, Chief Executive of the Local Government Association, was the principal guest and speaker at the annual dinner of the Institute of Wastes Management held last night at the Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street, London. Mr Colin Carr, president, was in the chair. Among those present were:

The Earl of Arran, the Earl of Cranbrook, Viscount Mills, Lord Bach, Lord Barnett, Baroness Byford, Baroness David, Lord Gregson, Lord McNair and Baroness Nicol.

London Goodenough Trust for Overseas Graduates
Sir Christopher Staughton was the guest speaker at the annual law faculty dinner of the London Goodenough Trust for Overseas Graduates held last night at Mecklenburgh Square. Lady French, governor of the trust, and Major-General Timothy Toyne Sewell, director, received the guests.

SIMON BROOKE-WEBB

Lenny Henry, with his wife Dawn French, and Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor of *The Times*, with his wife Jo, with the insignias of the MBE which they both received from the Queen at Buckingham Palace yesterday

Birthdays today

Mr Darren Anderton, footballer, 27; the Hon Peter Brooke, CH, MP, 65; Mr Charlie Brooks, racehorse trainer, 36; the Rev Raymond Brown, former Principal, Spurgeon's College, London, 71, Mr Peter Calver, racehorse trainer, 65; Lord John FitzGerald, former racehorse trainer, 47; Sir George Gardiner, former MP, 64; Mr David Glencross, former chief executive, ITC, 63; Dr Rod Hackney, former president, RIBA, 57; Mr Martin Lovett, former member, Amadeus Quartet, 72; Ms Merlyn Lowther, personnel director, Bank of England, 45; Mr Maurice Lynn, former Headmaster, The Oratory School, 48; Professor Angus McGrouther, plastic and reconstructive surgeon, 53; Mrs Eleanor McLaughlin, former Lord Provost and Lord-Lieutenant of Edinburgh, 61; Air Vice-Marshal Charles Maughan, 76; Mr James F. X. Miller, Headmaster, Royal Grammar School, Newcastle upon Tyne, 49; Mr Stephen Morrison, chief executive officer, Granada Media Group, 52; Sir Peter O'Sullevan, former racing commentator, 81; Sir Mark Prescott, racehorse trainer, 51; Miss Miranda Richardson, actress, 41; Mr Ronald Searle, artist and cartoonist, 79; the Earl of Southesk, 38; Lord Templeman, 79; Miss Fatima Whitbread, athlete, 38.

Somerset Lieutenancy

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Benjamin Bathurst has been appointed Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset.

Legal retirement

Judge Watts has retired from the South Eastern Circuit Bench.

Premium Bonds

The following Premium Bond prize-winners were announced yesterday:

£100,000: 22ZF 463624, winner has a holding of £3,500 and comes from Wandsworth; 86CF 283710, £19,991, Isle of Anglesey; 35ZT 299288, £1,603, Oxfordshire; 96LW 463493, £19,999, Barnet; 38FN 238592, £20,000, Isle of Wight; 45TT 529108, £18,180, Highland; 90LL 669225, £20,000, Derbyshire.

£50,000: 16NW 727903, £12,500, Bedfordshire; 38PF 987820, £2,733, Bristol; 24EF 837954, £1,258, Worcestershire; 90VN 326469, £15,000, Highland; 17XK 946099, £20,000, Cornwall; 55AS 425698, £4,400, Gwynedd; 52LS 540586, £20,000, West Midlands; 89FS 421422, £20,000, Shropshire; 11JS 273074, £19,010, West Yorkshire; 93ZW 619625, £20,000, Glasgow; 88ZW 891314, £15,000, Tyne and Wear; 49RN 710392, £6,616, East Sussex; 19VS 573605, £10,000, Hertfordshire; 73SF 240010, £10,002, Greater Manchester.

£25,000: 63CN 692359, £3,525, Cambridgeshire; 52BW 924110, £20,000, Devon; 46ZS 370446, £20,000, North Yorkshire; 44TP 209225, £20,000, Dorset; 71QZ 709249, £11,250, Devon; 27YP 267802, £12,300, Torfaen; 67LN 435262, £18,024, Essex; 82RN 710310, £20,000, Essex; 54ZB 286452, £10,056, Lincolnshire; 51KZ 225571, £2,598, Kent; 84EW 369161, £14,195, Nottinghamshire; 19HL 037473, £19,994, Derbyshire; 74RT 988039, £12,205, Cornwall; 44KZ 886748, £20,000, Hillingdon; 30AT 090146, £10,000, Edinburgh; 79BF 725705, £20,000, West Midlands; 58BK 410255, £18,852, Merseyside; 46PF 904749, £16,970, Glamorgan; 85QZ 305625, £10,112, Lincolnshire; 66BL 237178, £20,000, Swansea; 62QW 259311, £20,000, Kent; 85VB 370923, £20,000, Ealing; 11ZS 067026, £1,900, East Lothian; 92TK 626776, £10,041, Norfolk; 57FF 042311, £20,000, Lincolnshire; 51KF 782277, £3,001, Cardiff.

Luncheons

Australia & New Zealand Chamber of Commerce UK
Mr Bob Hawke was the guest of honour and speaker at a business luncheon of the Australian & New Zealand Chamber of Commerce UK held yesterday at the Baltic Exchange. Sir Peter Gadsden, president of the chamber, the High Commissioner for Australia, and the Earl of Limerick were among the guests.

First Day Cover Club
Sir Alan Langlands, Chief Executive of the NHS Executive, was the guest speaker at a luncheon of the First Day Cover Club held yesterday at BMA House to mark the publication of the Post Office stamps on the Patients' Tale. Mr Keith McDowall presided. Among others present were:

Lord Clarke of Hampstead, Lord Evans of Watford, Dr James Le Fanu, Ms Mary Baker (Parkinson's Disease Society), Mr Richard Dodds (the Heart Hospital), Mr Martin Horwood (Alzheimer's Disease Society), Mr Anthony Page (Age Concern), Ms Sarah Philips (MS Society of Great Britain and Ireland) and Mr Robin Corbett, MP.

School news

Kent College, Canterbury
Mr Andrew Carter has been appointed as the Head Master of Vernon Holme, the Junior School of Kent College, Canterbury. He succeeds Mr Terry Smith who retires in August 1999.

Sunningdale School
On Sunday, June 27, Sunningdale School is entertaining all Old Boys and former, present and future *parents to lunch at the school to* celebrate its 125th anniversary. Invitations will be sent, but it would be helpful if those wishing to attend would contact the school.

Appointments in the Forces

The Army
MAJOR-GENERAL: L.D. Curran to DGTS/POB 22.12.98; A P Grant-Peterkin to SAM RCDS 4.1.99; F R Dannatt to GOC 3 Div 15.1.99; A M D Palmer to DGATR 22.1.99; C L Elliott to COS HQ QMG 3.2.99; K O'Donoghue to ACGS 8.2.99; C N G Delves to CJFORT 1.3.99; J C B Sutherell to Comdt RMCS 12.3.99; F R Viggers to Comd MND(SW)SFOR 24.3.99; A S H Irwin to MS 6.4.99; R C Menzies to DGAMS 12.4.99; A P N Currie to COS HQ AG 30.4.99; R D S Gordon to GOC 2Div 14.5.99; D N Challes RA to DERA 19.4.99; D B Doherty RLC to HQ NI 12.3.99; R W Douglas AGC to TSEOTC 1.3.99; P A Hinds REME to DGES(A) 1.2.99; A G Rowe RLC to ACDS(L) 19.4.99.

Royal Air Force
Air Marshal Sir Peter Squire to be Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Strike Command and Commander Allied Air Forces Northwestern Europe in the rank of Air Chief Marshal, from March 29, in succession to Air Chief Marshal Sir John Allison.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr O.S.J. Adams and Miss A.L. Burke
The engagement is announced between Oliver, younger son of Mr and Mrs Brian Adams, of New York, and Alison, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Burke, of Camberley, Surrey.

Dr J.G. Barwell and Miss D. Eleftheriou
The engagement is announced between Julian, son of Mr and Mrs Raymond Barwell, of Weybridge, Surrey, and Despina, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Andreas Eleftheriou, of Athens, Greece.

Mr J.R. Brett and Miss R.E.K. Williams
The engagement is announced between James, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Tim Brett, of Chilham, Kent, and Rachel, daughter of Mr and Mrs Arthur Williams, of Bibury, Gloucestershire.

Mr J.R.A. Cranmer and Miss E.L. Bartlett
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs George Cranmer, of Hedgerley, Buckinghamshire, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs Bernard Bartlett, of Chobham, Surrey.

Mr J.M. Dinwiddy and Miss S. Fern
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Charles Dinwiddy, of Bures, Suffolk, and Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Fern, of Halifax, Yorkshire.

His Honour G.F.B. Laughland, QC, and Ms J. Bakes-Bradbury
The engagement is announced between His Honour Bruce Laughland, QC, of Bayswater, London, and Ms Jacqueline Bakes-Bradbury, of Windsor.

Mr G.J.W. Dunlop and Miss K.C. Wright
The engagement is announced between John, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Dunlop, of Tigh Leacann, Skipness, Argyll, and Clare, daughter of Brigadier and Mrs Charles Wright, of Watchfield House, Watchfield, Wiltshire.

Mr T.H. Hill and Miss C.L. Beveridge
The engagement is announced between Toby, youngest son of Mr David Hill and Mrs Susan Hill, of west London, and Candida, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Hugh Beveridge, of Allen Street, London W8.

Mr F.A. Wiseman and Miss C.E. Langford
The engagement is announced between *Fraser Alasdair, son of* Dr and Mrs Alasdair Wiseman, of Ottenburg, Belgium, and Claire Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Langford, of Tatsfield, Surrey.

Marriages

Mr P. Hagerman and Miss A. Collett
The marriage took place on February 27, 1999, at Oriel College, Oxford, of Mr Patrick Hagerman, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Hagerman, of Glendale, California, to Miss Amanda Collett, daughter of Mr Peter Collett and the late Mrs Collett, of East Horsley, Surrey.

Mr S.R. Metcalf and Mrs P.J.O. Muir
The marriage took place quietly in London, on Friday, February 26, between Mr Simon Metcalf and Mrs Primrose Muir.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Sir William Davenant, Poet Laureate 1638-68, Oxford, 1606; William Godwin the Elder, philosopher, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, 1756; Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, Edinburgh, 1847; Sir Henry Wood, conductor and co-founder of the Promenade Concerts, London, 1869; Edward Thomas, poet, London, 1878; Jean Harlow, actress, Kansas City, 1911.

DEATHS: Sir Nicholas Carew, courtier, executed in London, 1539; Robert Hooke, physicist, London, 1703; William Stukeley, antiquary, London, 1765; Robert Adam, architect and designer, London, 1792; Francis Egerton, 3rd Duke of Bridgewater, engineer and canal builder, London, 1803; Nicolai Gogol, novelist and dramatist, Moscow, 1852; Copley Fielding, landscape painter, Worthing, 1855; Arthur Koestler, novelist, committed suicide with his wife, London, 1983; Danny Kaye, actor, Los Angeles, 1987.

Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata* was published, 1802.

Bizet's opera *Carmen* was first performed at the Opéra Comique in Paris, 1875.

President Kemal Ataturk abolished the Caliphate and disestablished the Islamic religion in Turkey, 1924.

The US Congress adopted *The Star-Spangled Banner* as the American national anthem, 1931.

University news

Cambridge
Corpus Christi College
The following have been elected to visiting *fellowships* at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, for 1999-2000:

Professor G Cicotti (Physics), University La Sapienza Rome.

R J Collier, BSc PhD (Southampton) (Electronics) University of Kent.

M Henari BA, MA, PhD (Victoria University, Wellington) (Maori Studies), University of Auckland.

M R James BSc, BE, PhD (Maryland), (Engineering), Australian National University.

Kyra M Landzelius, MA, PhD (Pennsylvania) (Social Anthropology) Institute for Advanced Studies, Gothenberg.

B Opeskin BC, BL, BCL (Oxford) (Law) University of Sydney.

Professor D W Russell, BA, MA, PhD (Toronto), (French) University of Waterloo, Ontario.

Professor Danuta Shanzer, AB, DPhil (Oxford), (Classics), Cornell University.

Save me, O God, by thy name, and judge me by thy strength. Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth. *Psalm 54.1-2 (AV).*

BIRTHS

BEECH - See Holmes.

BOYS - On January 17th 1999, to Adam and Radmila (née Zoric), twin daughters, Katarina Anna and Natasha Joanna.

CANNON-BROOKES - On February 23rd, in Singapore to Andrew and Philomena, a son, Alistair.

DAVIDSON-HOUSTON - On 26th February 1999, to Claire (née Brockman) and Steuart, a son, Edward Henry Clear, a brother for Helena.

DRYSDALE - On Sunday February 28th 1999 to Vicky (née Cole) and Robert, a son, William Robin.

GRAHAM - On February 25th in Sydney, to Phillipa (née Woolley) and Paul, a son, Finn Oliver.

HOLMES - On 21st February to Alison and Julian, a beautiful baby daughter, Imogen Kate Ellerby, a sister for Freya.

KUHN - Caroline and Michael announce the birth, in Los Angeles, of a son, Jacob on 24th February.

LUCAS - On February 22nd at The Portland Hospital, to Kailan and Andrew, a daughter, Annabelle Felyi, a sister for Gregory.

McKAY - On 12th February 1999 to James and Emma, a son, William Henry.

NOBLE - On 26th February to Lucy (née Beynon) and Richard, a daughter, Tara Rosalind, a sister for Phoebe.

RUSSELL - On February 26th, to Jane (née Quinlan) and Robin, a daughter, Katherine Elizabeth, a sister for Joseph.

RYDER - On 1st March 1999 at The John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, to Gail (née Jackson) and Thomas, a son, Arran Finn.

SCOTT-HOPKINS - On 25th February, to Carey (née Egan), wife of Anthony, a daughter.

SEYMOUR - On 23rd February 1999 in Perth, Australia, to Wendy (née Farrand) and Clive, a son, Douglas John Warrington, a brother for Emma and Laura.

TAYLOR - Ian and Tina are pleased to announce the arrival of Serena Chantal born 20th February 1999, a sister for Justin and Leonie.

TAYLOR - On February 25th in Paris, to Sally (née Clarke) and Andrew, a daughter, Laura Camille, a sister for Emma.

BIRTHS

TEDRICK - On February 28th *at The Portland Hospital,* to John and Cara, a daughter, McKenna Kylie.

WHITMORE - On 1st March, to Sara (née Tiarks) and James, a daughter, Rosanna Elspeth, a sister for Harry and Nicholas.

DEATHS

ANDERSON - Mary (née Perrett) beloved wife of John, loved mother of David and Liz and adored grandmother, died peacefully at home on Sunday 28th February 1999. Thanksgiving Service at Holy Trinity Church, Blythburgh, Suffolk at 12.30 pm on Monday 8th March 1999. Family flowers only; donations if desired to Marie Curie Cancer Care or Imperial Cancer Research Fund c/o A Jary and Sons Ltd., 43 High Street, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth.

BEYNON - Richard, Actor, Writer, Producer, 28th March 1925 - 1st March 1999. Finally at peace having passed away quietly in his sleep. Enquiries to Mears & Cotterill, tel: (0181) 874-7698.

BOOTH - Died on 24th February (after a long period of mental illness, from which he was making a recovery) in hospital, of Durham City, Michael Francis, aged 66 years, (retired Sports Journalist for The Sunday Times and The Daily Telegraph), much loved father of Amanda and Deborah and a devoted grandfather of Hannah, Patrick, Benedict and Katy. Funeral service and cremation to take place on Friday March 5th at Durham Crematorium at 11am. Offers of Condolence to Mrs Amanda Harrison, 1, Darras Road, Ponteland, Northumberland NE20 9PD. Tel 01661 860448.

CHRISTMAS - Bettine Mary peacefully at Hungerford Nursing Home on 28th February aged 83 years. Devoted wife to Hugh, she will be greatly missed by all her many friends and *family. Funeral Service at* Swindon Crematorium on Tuesday March 9th at *11.30 am.* Flowers to Camp Hopson Funeral Directors, Newbury, tel: (01635) 522210. A Memorial Service to be announced later.

DEATHS

DESLANDES - Jack Ashby *DSC peacefully on 26th* February, dearly beloved husband of Norah, father of Rodney and Paul and much loved grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral Service at Randalls Park Crematorium Leatherhead on Friday 5th March at 4.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Alzheimer's Disease Society (Mid-Surrey Branch), Hope Lodge, 10 Church Street, Epsom.

DICKINSON - On 1st March, peacefully at home, Dr Reginald Gerard Dickinson, of Penny Bridge, Cumbria, dearly loved husband of Pat, devoted father of Barbara and John, father-in-law of Liz and grandfather of Toby & Hannah. Service on Friday 5th March at 11.30am at St Mary's RC Church, Ulverston, Cumbria, followed by burial at Haverthwaite. Friends welcome at church and cemetery, and afterwards at Angler's Arms, Haverthwaite. Donations in his memory to The Parkinson's Disease Society.

ESSEX - Hilda Annie (née Nan Allan) on February 28th 1999 aged 84 peacefully at home after a courageous struggle. Much loved wife of Owen, very dear mother of Wendy (Cundy) and Nigel, grandmother and great-grandmother. Service at St Martha's, Guildford at 2pm March 10th. Family flowers only but donations if desired for The Parkinson's Disease Society or St Martha's P.C.C. may be sent c/o J. Monk & Sons, 3 Artillery Terrace, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4NL, tel: (01483) 562780.

GAYWOOD - Peacefully on Friday 26th February at Honeyditches Nursing Home, Seaton, Roy Cedric aged 89. Beloved husband of Nancy. Will be remembered with great love and affection by Fenella, Carol, Clive, Norman and grandsons *Martin,* James and Roger. Funeral Service at St Paul's Chapel, Exeter Crematorium at 3.45pm, Friday 5th March. No *flowers please. Donations* to Honeyditches Nursing Home, Seaton at the *service* or c/o Hansfords, Funeral Directors, 6 Townsend, Beer, Devon, EX12 3LH. Relatives and friends please meet at the Chapel.

GOODFELLOW - On 27th February Mark, cherished husband of Lynn and devoted father of Venetia and Adam. Cremation at Mortlake on Monday 8th March at 2.30 pm. No flowers please but donations may be sent to "Friends of Barnes Hospital" for the refurbishment of the garden of the hospital in recognition of the loving care bestowed upon him by all the staff c/o Leverton & Sons, 212 Eversholt St, NW1 1BD.

HAMILTON - On 27th February, Charles Hamilton aged 69, died peacefully after a gallant fight following heart surgery. Funeral on Friday, 5th March at Holy Trinity Church, Folkestone at 12.45pm followed by cremation at Hawkinge Crematorium. Flowers or donations in lieu to British Heart Foundation, c/o Thomas Family Undertakers, 31 Bouverie Road West, Folkestone, CT20 2SZ. Tel 01303 245500.

INGALL - Annie Margaret suddenly on February 26th aged 18 years. Beloved daughter of Robin and Sue and sister of Rosie, Lizzie and Tom. Funeral Mass on Thursday March 4th in Tetbury. Thanksgiving Service at 2.30 pm on Friday 12th March at The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Tetbury, Glos. to which all are welcome. Family flowers only. Any donations to Taizé Youth Project, Diocese of Clifton, *c/o St Mary's School,* Shaftesbury, Dorset.

LAURANCE - Robin John 18th March 1942 - 27th February 1999. Suddenly passed away, without suffering and is now at rest. He fought valiantly against a serious illness with courage and optimism, never complaining and living life to the full. He achieved a great deal in all aspects of life. He was particularly proud of his involvement in the development of The Hubble Space Telescope and his work with The European Space Agency. He was a wonderful family man and we are so thankful for all the happy memories. Beloved husband of Cherry (Lapthorn), son of Harold and Bunty, special father of Paul, John, Jane and Neil, also of Nicole and *Peter,* grandfather of Kyle and Zoe. Robin's funeral takes place on 4th March *in The Netherlands.* Donations if desired to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, PO Box 123, Lincolns Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PX. Home address: Clusiusstraat 20A, 2163 JG, Lisse, The Netherlands.

LAUDER - Colonel Philip Lauder, late XI Hussars (P.A.O.), peacefully at home on Sunday 28th February 1999. Beloved husband of Frankie, father of Gilly, Brigid, Desmond and Joanna and Grandfather. Funeral service at the Church of St John the Baptist, Buckhorn Weston, Dorset, on Saturday March 6th at 12 noon. Family flowers only, donations if desired for Cancer Research, may be sent to Bracher Brothers Funeral Directors, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4QL. Tel: 01747 822494.

LORD - On 1st March peacefully in hospital and of Hartford, Cheshire Arthur Valentine (Val) aged 77 years, much loved father of Judy and grandfather of Kate and Daniel. Funeral Service to take place at Whitegate Parish Church on Monday 8th March at 11.30am followed by interment. Enquiries to George Lightfoot, Witton Mews, Northwich tel 01606 42011 / 40240.

MACTAGGART - Neil Auld of Nassau, Bahamas. On 28th February in London after a short illness, aged 73 years. Beloved husband of Betty Jane, devoted father of Ann, Robin, Neil, Tara and Andrew and loving grandfather of eight.

MANTLE - Irene. On February 26th in her 90th year at Eastbourne (formerly of Lichfield). Much loved mother of Geoffrey and widow of Frederick. Funeral Service at Friston Church, Sussex on Monday March 8th at 11.30am.

MAURICE - Phyllis, HMI Education 1947 - 1990, died 20th February 1999. Her Chief Inspector of the time said of her work "I do not know of any infant school in the country which did not look forward to her visit and feel better for her presence in their school". The thanksgiving service will take place at Barrow Parish Church, Barrow, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk at 2pm on 9th March followed by the Committal at the Crematorium, Risby.

McCALL - Donald of Widdington, Saffron *Walden, Essex on* Thursday 25th February 1999 aged 88. Beloved husband of Vera, father of Gillie and John, grandfather of Henrietta, Rosetta, Serena, Francis and Gerard. Family funeral.

McCONNELL - Frank on February 26th peacefully at home in his 90th year. Much loved father of Blaise, Ann and Edwina. Funeral Service at The Carmelite Church, Kensington Church Street on Thursday 4th March at 1.30 pm.

MITCHESON - Beryl (née Metcalfe), peacefully at home after a long illness on 1st March aged 63. Much loved wife and mother. Service at 1 pm Friday 5th March at Eastbourne Crematorium. Donations to St Michael's Hospice, c/o Mummery F/D, Bexhill.

NUTTING - The Rt Hon Sir Anthony Bt PC - the funeral will be held at 3pm on Thursday 4th March at Holy Trinity Brompton, family and friends welcome. All enquiries to Leverton and Sons Ltd. 0171 387 6075.

O'FERRALL - On February 28th, Bunty, beloved widow of the late Col. James O'Ferrall RE, died at the Wimbourne Nursing Home after an illness borne with great courage and humour. Dearest mother of Bridget, Pam, Anthony, Wendy and Charles and much loved granmo and great granmo. Funeral Service at St Catherines Church, Wimbourne on Friday 5th March at 1.30 pm. Flowers (or donations to Barnardos if desired) to Funeral Director, O'Hara of Wimbourne, 01202 882134.

PADMORE - On March 1st 1999 peacefully at St Peters Hospital, Chertsey, Surrey. Dennis aged 82 years. Much loved father of Joanna and Simon. Funeral Service at St John the Baptist Church, Church Road, St John's, Woking, Surrey, on Wednesday March 10th at 12.15 pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to 'R.M.B.I.' or St Peters Hospital Critical Care Challenge c/o Woking Funeral Service, tel: (01483) 772266.

PLINT - Margaret Elizabeth Ann (née Goodden) peacefully and courageously on February 26th, Much loved wife of the late Michael Plint and sister of John Goodden, stepmother of Michael, George and the late Charles, grandmother of Annabel, Henrietta and *Louisa. Funeral at St* Mary's Church Henley on Monday March 8th at 11am, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations to Sue Ryder Home Nettlebed, Nettlebed, Henley on Thames RG9 5DF.

PONSONBY - Diana, Linlithgow. Peacefully at home on Saturday 27th February 1999, Diana Wray (née Hurt), beloved wife of Lt Col Chum Ponsonby, dearly loved mother of Richard and Miles and a much loved grandmother. Funeral service will be held at St Peter's Episcopal Church, Linlithgow on Friday 5th March at 2pm and thereafter to Falkirk Crematorium arriving 3pm. Donations only to 'Peoples Dispensary for Sick Animals', 2B Hutchison Crossway, Edinburgh EH14 1RR.

POOLE - Robert Murton of Dale Hall, Lawford suddenly on 27th February aged 81. Much loved by his wife Jeltje, children Ranulph and Alice and grandchildren Leila and Alicia. Funeral Service to be held at Lawford Church on Tuesday 9th March at noon. No flowers please but any donations for the Lawford Church Organ Fund c/o R Gwinnell & Sons, 24 High Street, Manningtree.

POOLE - Joan, dearly loved wife of David, on Friday February 26th 1999 suddenly at home. Funeral Service at Weeley Crematorium on Friday March 12th at 2.45 pm. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to British Heart Foundation c/o P.G. Oxley Ltd., 47 High Street, Walton-on-the-Naze, Essex, tel: (01255) 675549.

POTTER - Katharine Ashton died on February 28th 1999 aged 92 years. She will be sadly missed by her sister Dorothy and her relations and by her many, many friends. The funeral service will take place at St James Church, Ramsden, Oxon. on Friday 5th March at 2 pm, followed by private cremation. No flowers please. Any enquiries to Greens Funeral Services, 21 High Street, Eynsham, Witney, Oxon. OX8 1HE, tel: (01865) 880837.

PRIMROSE - Simpson, on 26th February 1999, dearly *loved husband of Grace* and loving dad of Claire, Louise and Felicity. Many thanks to all staff at the Coronary Care Unit of the Victoria Infirmary, Glasgow. Funeral service at Shawlands Parish Church, Pollokshaws Road on Friday 5th March at 10.30 am and thereafter to Linn Cemetery, Lainshaw Drive. No flowers please, donations if wished to R.N.L.I.

RANDALL - Mrs Joan *Florence (née Black),* widow of Alan, peacefully on 24th February 1999 aged 91. No funeral service at her request. Donations if desired to Royal Star and Garter Home for the Disabled, Richmond, Surrey TW10 6RR.

RAHILLY - Peggy, née Warren, beloved wife of Mick and mother of Christine, Angela, Patrick, Brian and Denis, peacefully in her sleep on Sunday February 28th 1999. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, Westwood, Bradford-on-Avon on Tuesday March 9th at 2.30pm. Donations please to the Stroke Association, Stroke House, Whitecross Street, London EC1Y 8JJ.

WATSON - (Dr. Geoffrey H.) - died 27th February 1999, peacefully at home in Manchester, aged 78. Very much loved and missed by Joan and Mike, Ian and Eileen, Victoria and Katherine. Funeral at Altrincham Crematorium at 2 pm on Friday 12th March, 1999. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired to the M.N.D. Association (Manchester) c/o the funeral directors. Enquiries to R. Pepperdine & Sons Ltd., Funeral Directors, Alexandra House, 5 Manchester Road, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester M21 9JG. Tel: 0161 881 5363.

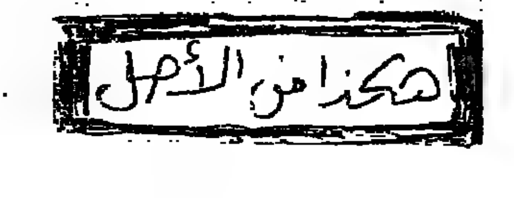
IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

INSTONE - In loving memory of Sir Samuel and Lady Instone on their Wedding Day and remembering with love Mary, Anna and Theo.

JACKSON - Jack. Remembered with love by Yvonne, Peter and Christopher.

BIRTHDAYS

TARA Happy Birthday, you have been adopted in 1970. I never stopped loving you. From Montreal your first mother and your sisters. Ann Cuzier: 514 843 6248 or e-mail cuzra@total.net



OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR BOB ZACHARY

Professor Bob Zachary, paediatrician, died on February 1 aged 85. He was born on March 1, 1913.

BOB ZACHARY was one of the pioneers of British paediatric surgery. He pursued his career with great energy and dedication despite a severe spinal deformity, and in 1953 he was one of the small group who formed the British Association of Paediatric Surgeons. He was a surgeon of superb technical ability and a champion of surgery of the newborn, his main contribution being in the management of children born with spina bifida and hydrocephalus.

After a degree in pharmacy, Robert Bransby Zachary turned his attention to medicine, graduating in 1940 at Leeds with first class honours and the Gold Medal, with prizes in both clinical medicine and surgery. He became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1943 and initially pursued a career in orthopaedic surgery in Oxford. He was elected Hunterian Professor at the Royal College of Surgeons in 1944 for research in orthopaedics.

In 1947 he turned his attention to paediatric surgery, and with a grant from the Nuffield Foundation he began training in the Children's Hospital at Boston, Massachusetts. In 1945, he was appointed consultant paediatric surgeon at the Children's Hospital in Sheffield, where he developed an internationally acclaimed unit.

Zachary campaigned for paediatric surgeons to be given a monopoly of neonatal surgery, so that they might



accumulate sufficient expertise in a variety of work. As chairman of the specialist advisory committee, he emphasised the need for specialist centres to provide training for future generations of paediatric surgeons and to carry out essential research and development to promote the speciality. He helped many trainees from other parts of the world, not only with professional guidance, but often with personal financial assistance.

In the field of spina bifida, he promoted the aim of early surgical closure of the myelomeningocoele; active treatment of the associated hydrocephalus and continued follow-up and aggressive management of orthopaedic renal and bowel problems. He was a founder member of the Society for Research into Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida (and chairman, 1969-71). Many of his articles and lectures concerned the treatment of spina bifida.

Above all, Zachary was a hands-on surgeon and a superb teacher. He was president of the British Association of Paediatric Surgeons, 1962-63, and received numerous awards and degrees. He was in great demand internationally as a guest speaker, frequently delivering lectures in the language of his audience, whether in Russia, Poland or Czechoslovakia. He was awarded a personal chair in paediatric surgery by Sheffield University in 1976.

Bob Zachary's first wife, Faith, predeceased him in 1981. His second wife, Winifred, died in 1990, but he is survived by his third wife, Janetta, and by two sons and a daughter from his first marriage, all of whom are doctors.

AMY CAMERON

Amy Cameron, hospital play specialist, died in Bristol on February 1 aged 77. She was born on July 14, 1921.

AMY CAMERON specialised in the promotion of hospital play and was a founder member of the National Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital, which has pioneered many aspects of the treatment of children in hospital that are now taken for granted.

Born Amy Katharina Mary Robbins, she was sent to finish her schooling with relatives in Rheydt in Germany in 1938. At this time there were frequent Nazi parades through the town, and on one occasion Amy was introduced to Hitler. When war broke out, her parents told her to return home immediately, though she only discovered that Britain and Germany were at war when she arrived back.

She was plagued by ill-health. As a child, she had deformed legs and she needed leg-irons until her teens to set them straight. She was advised to take up dancing as a form of physiotherapy, and did so with such gusto that she went on to win the West of England Ballroom Dancing Championship. She later suffered a burst appendix. The subsequent emergency operation was undertaken without anaesthetic.

Her health denied her a place in the WRNS during the war, but she joined BOAC (British Overseas Airways Corporation) as a secretary, and later carried messages as part of the war effort.

She married William Cameron in August 1950. Her son Peter was born in 1959. Because of her medical condition, she had to spend the whole of her pregnancy in hospital. Even so, her baby was very poorly and spent long periods in hospital. Her experiences of hospital and its restrictions encouraged her to join a group of people in setting up Mothercare for Children in Hospital. This later changed its name to the National Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital, of which she was honorary secretary from 1961 to 1974.

She was also honorary secretary of the Standing Conference of Women's Organisations from 1961 to 1982. The provisions she advocated for the care of children in hospital, such as open visiting hours for parents and play areas on wards, are now standard practice.

In 1969 the family moved to Yorkshire, where she continued her work with children. She attached herself to the West Yorkshire Regional Health Authority, based at Airedale General Hospital, as play co-ordinator. She travelled all over Yorkshire setting up hospital playgroups, and was a British pioneer of the treatment of severely mentally retarded children by introducing them (with suitable protection) into children's wards in hospital.

After the break-up of her marriage, she returned to Bristol to bring up her own children. Despite her disabilities and almost constant pain, she joined in numerous local activities and charities. She is survived by two sons.

SIR FREDERICK SOUTHWORTH

Sir Fredrick Southworth, QC, former Chief Justice in Malawi, died on February 22 aged 88. He was born on May 9, 1910.

Frederick Southworth was a survivor of the terrorist bomb which destroyed the King David Hotel in Jerusalem 52 years ago. Newly appointed Crown Counsel in Palestine, he was arriving for a meeting in the hotel — the headquarters of Britain's Palestine Army Command — when the terrorists struck on July 22, 1946.

A truckload of milk churns, guarded by armed men from the Irgun gang, the Jewish organisation headed by the future Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, had drawn up at the basement entrance shortly after noon. The gang unloaded the churns, which were packed with gelignite, and carried them into the kitchens of the Regency restaurant just below the British military secretariat, shooting and wounding an army officer who had challenged them.

Ninety-one people were killed in the blast, and many more were critically injured, including Southworth. Initially left for dead, he lay for days unconscious in hospital, and it was feared that he would never walk again. But after months on crutches, being nursed by the wife he had married four years before, he made a remarkable recovery. As if to disprove the more gloomy prognoses at the time, he made walking one of his favourite recreations.

Nearly 20 years after that notorious explosion, Southworth met Israel's soldier-statesman Moshe Dayan, who apologised to him on behalf of the nation. Southworth gracefully accepted the apology.

Southworth: became independent Malawi's first Chief Justice

Frederick Southworth had been born in Blackburn, and from Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School he went up to Exeter College, Oxford. On graduating, he read for the Bar, and was called by Gray's Inn in 1936.

Commissioned into the South Lancashire Regiment in 1939, he transferred to the Lancashire Fusiliers before sailing for India in 1942. There he served with the 14th Army before being posted to the Judge Advocate-General's department, ending the war as Deputy Judge Advocate-General for Eastern Command, with the rank of colonel.

He joined the Colonial Legal Service in 1946, shortly before leaving for Palestine on his first appointment. After recovering from the injuries he suffered in Jerusalem, he moved to a similar post in Tanganyika (now Tanzania), and in 1951 he became Attorney-General in the Bahamas. He took silk in the following year, and went on to serve as Acting Governor and Acting Chief Justice at various times.

He also drafted legislation governing the operation of American guided-weapon bases in relation to civil aviation in the region, and indulged himself in his spare time by fishing in the Caribbean and writing theatre reviews for Nassau's *Daily Tribune*. Then in 1955 he returned to Africa as a puisne judge in Nyasaland.

He was much quoted in the press in 1960 when he headed a commission of inquiry into newspaper allegations against the Nyasaland police after riots in Blantyre during a visit by the Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan. His report found "no evidence that enough blood had been spilt to fill a mustard spoon or enough skin lost to cover a postage stamp".

Appointed Acting Governor-General for 1964-65, as Nyasaland was becoming the independent state of Malawi, Southworth had the job of swearing in Hastings Banda as President, and stayed to serve as Malawi's first Chief Justice, until retiring in 1970. It was not an easy time. Southworth's duty to uphold the rule of law was complicated by Banda's more cavalier approach. Southworth's reserves of good humour and common sense were fully tested as he steered a practical course in tricky circumstances.

Himself a lawyer of instinctive integrity, he is generally considered to have managed a difficult situation very well, by keeping Banda on his side.

A well-read man with a deep love of history and a healthy sense of the absurd, Fred Southworth also left a horticultural mark wherever he worked. At Dar-es-Salaam, for example, he planted frangipanis along the long drive to his house, with pink flowers down one side and white ones on the other. In Malawi he befriended local agricultural research scientists, soliciting their advice before importing an impressive variety of soft fruit trees and even vines to explore the potential of the Blantyre soil and climate.

But he was also an inveterate traveller who, together with his wife, spent much of his time touring round the Mediterranean in retirement. A close family man, he is survived by his wife Margaret, whom he married in 1942, and by their three daughters.

VISCOUNT KEMSLEY

Viscount Kemsley, Conservative MP for Buckingham, 1943-45, and Deputy Chairman of Kemsley Newspapers, 1938-59, died on February 28 aged 89. He was born on June 29, 1909.

THE son of one of Britain's last native newspaper tycoons, Lionel Berry, 2nd Viscount Kemsley, was deputy chairman of Kemsley Newspapers until his father, the 1st Viscount, sold the family's controlling interest in the company to Roy Thomson in 1959. It was the end of a chapter in the British newspaper industry which had seen the Kemsley organisation owning *The Sunday Times*, the *Daily Graphic*, the *Sunday Graphic* and a string of solid regional newspapers. In these dramatic events Lionel Kemsley played a low-key role, though his father's sale of *The Sunday Times* was effected with his and his brothers' approval.

The company had been created in 1938 by his father, Gomer Berry, one of three Merthyr Tydfil brothers all of whom became millionaires and peers. Seymour Berry, who became Lord Buckland, was principally an industrialist. William (later Viscount Camrose) and Gomer took to newspapers and for more than twenty years worked in harness. They acquired their first title, *The Sunday Times*, in 1915, and in the period after the First World War their empire expanded enormously. In 1924 they founded Allied Newspapers with another proprietor, the future Lord Iliffe. Their activities gave them controlling interests in a large number of titles, national and regional, notable among them *The Financial Times* and *The Daily Telegraph*.

But in 1938 the brothers decided to disentangle their affairs from each other and from those of Lord Iliffe. William had two sons, Gomer six, and it could not be guaranteed that the cordial working relationship that had subsisted between the fathers would continue in their offspring. Besides, Gomer, four years younger, did not relish permanent junior status.

In the consequent business disengagement, William acquired *The Daily Telegraph*, Gomer *The Sunday Times*. The latter immediately proclaimed his sovereignty by creating Kemsley Newspapers (he had been created Baron Kemsley in 1936); his eldest son, Lionel, became deputy chairman.



Berry as Deputy Chairman of Kemsley Newspapers in the 1950s

Geoffrey Lionel Berry had been educated at Marlborough and Magdalen College, Oxford. His father saw to it that he fully understood the newspaper business by sending him to the US to study American business methods. In the 1930s he became a director of Allied Newspapers. When war came he served in the Grenadier Guards, but was invalided out in 1942.

Next, an opportunity presented itself for him to enter Parliament. The MP for Buckingham, Brigadier J. P. Whiteley, had died on war service and Berry was elected unopposed to his seat. However, he was a victim of the Labour landslide of 1945 and did not return to Parliament.

Meanwhile his father, who had been created Viscount Kemsley in 1945, was building up his newspaper organisation. But although *The Sunday Times* prospered in a circulation battle against *The Observer*, other parts of the company came under pressure in an increasingly cut-throat market. In 1952 the *Daily Graphic* was sold to Associated Newspapers. The Kemsley *Sunday Chronicle* was merged with the organisation's *Empire News*, one of several retrenchments of the kind, while the *Daily Record* was sold off to the Mirror Group.

Viscount Kemsley tried to insulate himself from these disappointments by throwing himself more and more deeply into his involvement with *The Sunday Times*. But by now Kemsley Newspapers was no longer on a sound financial footing. Unlike the man who was to snap his papers up, the Canadian magnate Roy (later Lord) Thomson, Kemsley had failed to appreciate the money-making potential of commercial television. In 1959 he stunned the newspaper world with the announcement that *The Sunday Times* and his regional newspapers had been sold to Thomson.

Lionel and his brothers left the board; it was the end of his involvement with newspapers and he concentrated on public duties in the East Midlands where he lived. He was a county councillor for Northants, 1964-70, and High Sheriff of Leicestershire in 1967. He was also, from 1973 to 1984, chairman of St Andrew's Hospital, Northampton, and from 1976 to 1983, president of the Association of Independent Hospitals. He succeeded his father in 1968.

He married, in 1933, Lady Helen Hay, eldest daughter of the 11th Marquess of Tweeddale. She and their four daughters survive him.

MYLES PONSONBY

Myles Ponsonby, CBE, secret intelligence officer, died on February 1 aged 74. He was born on September 12, 1924.

MYLES PONSONBY never revealed his long career as a member of the Secret Intelligence Service (known colloquially as MI6). Yet he was twice head of mission: first as Consul-General in Hanoi at the height of the Vietnam War and later as Ambassador in Ulan Bator to the People's Republic of Mongolia.

Ponsonby's service to the Crown began during the Second World War. As a lieutenant in the King's Royal Rifle Corps (60th Rifles) he took part in Operation Overlord and saw action in Normandy. During the advance at Tessel Brettville he was wounded, and he returned to convalesce in Yorkshire.

Until the end of the war he was involved in retraining a large contingent of free Czechs, and as an instructor at the School of Infantry, Warminster.

After VE-Day he was posted to Tripolitania and subsequently was sent to Palestine as an intelligence officer. A posting at GHQ Middle East followed, which led to his eventual involvement in Security Intelligence Middle East. This led to his transfer to the Secret Intelligence Service.

Later postings took him to Egypt, Cyprus, Beirut and Jakarta. After a spell at home he was posted to Kenya as political adviser to the British High Commissioner in Nairobi. He was also adviser to the British Military Mission.

His time in Nairobi was cut short by a 13-month cross-posting to Hanoi, where he played a role in the vain attempts by the Wilson Government to broker peace in Vietnam. A recent paper on the role of the Hanoi Consulate in the Vietnam War reflects the importance the Foreign Office attached to Ponsonby's reporting from North Vietnam. It draws attention to his astute observation that "the Russians, and even possibly the Chinese, have as much difficulty dealing with North Vietnam as the US have with the Southerners".

A Foreign Office telegram, replying to one of his reports, commented that his observations on Vietnamese resilience were important because "they call into question some of the fundamental assumptions of American policy".

Subsequent events proved Ponsonby right, and for his work in Hanoi he was appointed CBE in 1966.

Another spell at home saw Ponsonby as a senior member of the personnel department of the SIS at a time of radical reconstruction. The implementation of the changes required a firm but sympathetic touch with members of staff, which Ponsonby supplied. He was then posted to Rome as head of the SIS station. His final posting abroad was to Ulan Bator, as an experienced observer at the height of the Cold War.

Myles Walter Ponsonby was born in Hyde Park Gate, Kensington, the son of Victor Coope Ponsonby and Gladys Walter. Her family were proprietors of *The Times*. He attended St Aubyn's Preparatory School at Rottingdean, Sussex, and went on to Eton. He was a descendant of Sir Henry Ponsonby, Queen Victoria's Private Secretary, and his family background gave him a strong sense of duty. He combined this with an insistence on frankness, yet at all times a respect for good manners.

He was a modest man — so much so that many underestimated his qualities and were unaware of his achievements. He was, however, a great party giver.

He is survived by his wife Anne, who for nearly 50 years supported him in his career, and by their son and two daughters.

ON THIS DAY

March 3, 1939

Howard Carter's name will always be identified with the discovery and excavation of the tomb of Tutankhamun.

DISCOVERY OF TOMB OF TUTANKHAMUN

Mr Howard Carter, the great Egyptologist who gained fame for his part in one of the most successful and exciting episodes in the annals of archaeology, the discovery and exploration of the tomb of Tutankhamun, died at his London home yesterday.

After the War the fifth Earl of Carnarvon applied for and was granted a concession in the Valley of the Tombs of the Kings. It had been thought that all the mysteries of the famous valley had been disclosed. All former excavators had worked on the system of "sondages" — that is, making pits in rubbish in likely places in the hope of finding a tomb entrance. But Lord Carnarvon and Mr Carter decided that they must excavate down to actual bedrock and that their best chance was to clear away former workers' rubbish, which had often been dumped down without previous search of the ground. About 150,000 to 200,000 tons of rubbish was removed, and though they came across much untouched ground, nothing save some alabaster vases and a few minor objects rewarded their perseverance until November 5, 1922, when Howard Carter came upon a step cut in the rock.

Thus Carter made a find rarely vouchsafed to the archaeologist. Even then it was only after years of toil. The step, which was beneath the entrance of the tomb of Rameses VI, proved to be the beginning of a stairway that led down to the tomb of Tutankhamun. Hardly daring to believe that the good fortune, so long deferred, had then come, Carter loyally waited until his friend and fellow-worker, Lord Carnarvon, could arrive from England to help him. When Lord Carnarvon arrived he and Carter opened the first door, which revealed a descending passage leading to a second door. A little breach was made in it and a candle inserted into the dark hole; then gradually, his eyes becoming accustomed to the darkness, Carter saw "strange animals, statues, and gold — everywhere the glint of gold." And this was but a glimpse of the treasures which were eventually to be brought to light. To have found the tomb at all was a triumph, but to have found it intact was beyond the wildest dreams of Egyptologists, as Royal tombs had been so often the prey of the ancient robber. The discovery stirred the whole civilized world more perhaps than any other archaeological success had ever done.

Born at Swaffham, Norfolk, in 1873, Howard Carter was the youngest son of Mr Samuel John Carter, animal painter. As a youth he showed great keenness and aptitude for archaeological work, and when 17 years of age he went to Egypt on the staff of the E.E.F. Archaeological Survey. In 1892 he assisted Professor Flinders Petrie in the excavation of Tel-el-Amarna on behalf of Lord Amherst, and from 1893 to 1899 he was draughtsman to the E.E.F. Staff, Deir-el Bahari campaign.

For the next 20 years and more he was engaged on many important investigations which seemed to lead him step by step to the crowning achievement of 1922, and there was probably no one richer in experience and knowledge than Howard Carter to be in charge of the treasures of the tomb . . .

THE TIMES TODAY

WEDNESDAY MARCH 3 1999

NEWS

Safari killers chose British victims

■ Hutu rebels who bludgeoned and hacked to death eight tourists after kidnapping them from a gorilla safari camp attached notes to the bodies saying "Americans and British, we don't want you on our land."

The attackers were specifically looking for Britons and Americans when they raided the Bwindi Park in Uganda. The attackers told the French to stand aside. Four Ugandans were killed and 14 English-speaking tourists were then marched into the jungle, where the eight met their deaths........Pages 1-3

Survivor tells of jungle murders

■ A survivor of the kidnappings gave a graphic account of being forced to march nine hours through the jungle and seeing the bodies of five of his companions who had been hacked to death with machetes........Page 1

Dome doubts
Labour MPs will today seek guarantees that the Government will not bale out the £758 million Millennium Dome after a report raised doubts about its ability to pay its way........Page 4

Plea for life
A woman told the Old Bailey how she kissed the boots of a German soldier as she pleaded for her life. As she begged Anthony Sawoniuk, the man accused of helping to carry out Nazi genocide, did nothing to help........Page 5

Bus boy 'murdered'
A boy of eight was "befriended, groomed and seduced" before being murdered by a bus driver who had picked him up on his regular route, a jury heard. The driver gave Jamie Lavis special treats during the journey........Page 5

Killer sunbeds
Sunbeds can kill, the Health Education Authority declared. With up to three million people using them every year, the authority says that sunbeds could be responsible for a very high incidence of the most dangerous form of skin cancer........Page 6

Drummer's £600,000
Tony McCarroll, the drummer who was sacked by Oasis as the rock group achieved success in 1995, won a £600,000 settlement yesterday........Page 7

Islanders sue
Islanders from the Chagos archipelago in the Indian Ocean accused Britain of illegally sending them into poverty-stricken exile in order to turn their home over to American forces........Page 8

Public contest
League tables are to be drawn up to measure the performance of police, transport, social services, local government and other public services in a drive to increase standards........Page 10

Climbing star
Spiderman, like Batman and Superman before him, is destined for Hollywood. The humanoid with the webbed skin is to be the star of his own blockbuster with a budget of £125 million........Page 11

Euro worries
Fresh signs emerged of a widening economic gap among the nations of euroland, reinforcing worries over the single currency. Diverging inflation rates heightened concern that economies are moving out of step........Page 12

Leader steps down
Dem Demaci, the father figure of the Kosovo Liberation Army, stepped down as its political front man after regional commanders said they could no longer accept his hardline stance, which is blocking peace plans for the province........Page 13

MPs told of nation's hidden treasures

■ Owners of national treasures are reneging on pledges to open them up to the public in return for tax benefits. MPs will be told that in any one year just 15 per cent of properties are visited by the public. Some owners are making it difficult for people to view their property even though in the past 15 years some £760 million has been deferred in tax payments........Page 4



Formula One driver Johnny Herbert with the RAAF precision flying team over Melbourne before Sunday's first race of the season

BUSINESS

Growth falls: Rentokil Initial, the hygiene and pest control group, blamed a strong pound for shackling profits as one of the world's biggest business services companies missed its long-standing 20 per cent growth target........Page 21

HP split: Hewlett-Packard, one of the pioneers of California's Silicon Valley, announced plans to split into two companies........Page 21

Smokers rise: The number of cigarette smokers in the UK jumped by 500,000 or 5 per cent last year, according to Gallaher Group, Britain's biggest producer........Page 21

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose .40 to 6061.3. The pound rose 0.83 cents to $1.6158 and 0.37p against the euro to 67.64p. The index rose to 102.2 from 101.6........Page 24

Football: Alex Ferguson is determined that no hint of complacency will contaminate his Manchester United team for their European Cup quarter-final against Internazionale........Page 40

Cricket: Geoff Allott, the New Zealand Noll, scored the longest nought in the game's history, lasting 101 minutes in the first Test against South Africa........Page 40

Athletics: Colin Jackson, in the fourteenth year of his senior career, is about to have his last crack at a world indoor championship, so he dare not fail........Page 38

Simon Barnes: The great hoo-ha about tobacco sponsorship is a great blind. Its effect is to cover up the West's vast cultural and fiscal investment in alcohol........Page 38

Conducting a life: "You only get one time around and I've got a lot of things still to do," says André Previn as he prepares for his 70th birthday........Page 28

Picasso at war: A superb exhibition at the Guggenheim Museum in New York throws light on how the experience of war affected the art of Picasso........Page 29

Royal roadshow: While Covent Garden is still undergoing redevelopment the Royal Ballet has embarked on a tour of "bite-sized" new ballets........Page 29

Top of the world: In Shepherd's Bush Alanis Morissette has demonstrated the lyrical powers that have taken her to the very top of the world of pop........Page 30

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **FILMS**
Thandie Newton, left, and Kimberly Elise in *Beloved*, produced by and starring Oprah Winfrey

■ **BOOKS**
What has Martin Luther King left behind?

Cold cuts: How the discovery of ancient ice at the South Pole has led to a rethink of climate theories. Plus, Nigel Hawkes reports on the scientist combing rich lists for sponsors; and protection for whales from man-made sounds........Page 14

Danger, stranger: Tour operators may reassure holidaymakers who book trips to risky areas that the companies with which they will travel know about potential dangers. But are all operators being open enough about the risks?

Jon Ashworth reports on the consultancy that provides country-by-country analysis for business executives and holidaymakers planning forays into areas where the risks include terrorism........Page 15

Unfair: Since the Government last month introduced new limits on fair rent increases to help private tenants who have been facing high rises, landlords have been cursing. Why, then, are tenants also unhappy?........Page 33

The more Washington seeks to broaden its agenda with Beijing, the more harshly China treats its democrats and dissidents. Americans will not support a policy of engagement and improved relations with China if the price is American inaction on human rights abuses
— *The New York Times*

Preview: Clinical depression: *A Living Hell* (BBC2, 11.15pm). *Review:* *LA Stories:* Beguiling documentary about Brits who packed their laptops for Hollywood........Pages 38, 39

The first test
Tony Blair delivered a stirring sermon in Milan to his Socialist eurozone partners, pleading with them to graft the dynamism of America's enterprise culture onto the "European social model"........Page 17

Death in Uganda
Those who died in the Bwindi Park have been, in a sense, the victims of the past indifference of outsiders. It will not help Uganda though, if tourists decide to boycott the country completely........Page 17

Royal beefeater
The beef-on-the-bone ban should end. Arise Sirloin........Page 17

SIMON JENKINS
My impression is that, during the Cold War, spying was a game acceptable to public opinion. Now that war is over, spying against states with whom we are not at war is less acceptable, yet is more likely to be of value........Page 16

BRONWEN MADDOX
I love it when people complain that American culture is taking over the world. It hasn't even taken over the United States........Page 16

ALAN COREN
And then, uncannily — until you recall that he is as clairvoyant a cove as you can shake a Ouija board at — Mr Geller divined precisely what Miss Widdecombe was thinking, picked up a teaspoon, and made it droop........Page 16

PETER RIDDELL
The accuracy of statistics are too important to be left to statisticians, or politicians........Page 10

Viscount Kemsley, newspaper proprietor; **Sir Frederick Southworth**, Chief Justice of Malawi; **Bob Zachary**, paediatrician; **Miles Ponsonby**, intelligence officer........Page 19

Britain's role outside euro; *BMJ*'s celebration of sex and health; threat to beer trade........Page 17

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,041

ACROSS
1 Snack meals taken by advertising man, by the way (8,5).
9 Pack up fruit in cases (7).
10 Withdraw treatise on religious education (7).
11 Line one missed out in letter to Bar (5).
12 Gunners under scrutiny promise to provide admission later (4,5).
13 Transport route that could go into terminal (8).
15 Control supplies of commodity in a tight spot (6).
18 Don't recognise plant in row (6).
19 Reacting badly to wild garlic the French put in (8).
22 Tense claim to be practised? (9).
24 Up to 50 attached to special unit (5).
25 Motorway speed on Eastern ruler's territory (7).
26 Refined thief providing service with retiring personality (7).
27 Sauce with food a woman's made up before (8,5).

DOWN
1 Inside story of subscription scheme (7).
2 Dreadful thing disturbs birds (9).
3 Anger in the Cape (5).
4 Getting over clanger I stupidly made (8).
5 One that flies higher than an eagle (6).
6 Vegetable oils, for example, 1 block (9).
7 A way to climb with exercises in hanging (5).
8 Author of horror story who feeds the flames (6).
14 Such characters appear to be threatening action (5,4).
16 Late-comers aren't scolded by hostess here (9).
17 It smooths things over as a flirt moves on (4-4).
18 Rubbish left after excursion (6).
20 Select new key for instrument (7).
21 Gives way to delays (6).
23 Group of animals noisily poked noses in thus (5).
24 Fellow in section is in poor shape (5).

Solution to Puzzle No. 21,040

PLAYPEN CLAMANT
RUCHE BEACHBALL
INDOOR WINDBAGS
MIDGE ALTIMETER
NECTARINE CLEAN
ROADSIDE MINIMS
DEMEANOUR AFIRE
ENDORSE EVEREST

Times Two Crossword, page 40

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.42 am — Sun sets: 5.43 pm

Moon sets: 7.24 am — Moon rises: 7.08 pm

Last quarter March 10

London 5.43 pm to 6.40 am
Bristol 5.53 pm to 6.50 am
Edinburgh 5.50 pm to 6.58 am
Manchester 5.50 pm to 6.51 am
Penzance 6.07 pm to 7.01 am



☐ **General:** England and Wales will be fresher than yesterday with sunny spells and showers. There will be strong winds in the south-west and along the Channel coast. The showers will be heaviest in the west and some may be thundery, and they may become prolonged in the north. Northern Ireland, northern and western Scotland will be cold and windy with frequent heavy showers, the showers slowly turning wintry. Eastern Scotland will be slightly milder and less windy but there will be rain at times.

Tonight the strong winds will ease and a clear spells are possible, but most places will still be at risk from rain. The showers will be prolonged in Scotland and northern England and there will be sleet or snow over the hills of Scotland and Northern Ireland.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E England:** rather windy with showers and only brief sunny breaks. A strong south-west wind. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **E Midlands, W Midlands, N W England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N England:** heavy showers, some turning thundery and prolonged by afternoon. A moderate westerly wind. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Channel Islands, S W England, S Wales, N Wales:** a very windy day with frequent heavy showers, some of them thundery with hail possible. A strong south-west wind. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **N E England:** mainly cloudy with showers merging to a longer spell later. A moderate north to north-west wind. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, N E Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** mainly cloudy with occasional outbreaks of rain. Light to moderate north to north-easterly wind. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **S W Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, N W Scotland:** windy with heavy and thundery showers, some of them with hail. Sleet and snow on hills. A strong north wind. Max temp 5-7C (41-45F).

☐ **N Ireland:** very windy with heavy and thundery showers and only brief sunny breaks. A strong to gale force north to north-west wind. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** sunny intervals and heavy showers, mostly in the west. Squally winds freshening northwesterly, strong at times in the west. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Outlook:** tomorrow will continue showery, many of the showers merging into longer spells of rain with sleet and snow in Scotland. Friday will remain cold with a mix of sunny spells and showers, the showers increasingly wintry with the best sunshine in sheltered southern areas.

AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm. b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gales; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	0.5	0.20	7	45	r
Anglesey	0.1	0.57	9	48	r
Aspetria	0.2	0.46	10	50	r
Aviemore	0.2	0.10	7	45	r
Belfast	2.1	0.20	11	52	sh
Birmingham	-	0.28	12	54	r
Bournemth	-	0.07	12	54	r
Bristol	-	0.91	15	59	r
Buxton	-	0.88	11	52	r
Cardiff	-	0.69	13	55	r
Clacton	0.7	0.04	11	52	r
Cleethorpes	-	0.22	13	55	r
Colwyn Bay	-	0.44	12	54	r
Cromer	-	0.20	14	57	sh
Eastbourne	0.5	0.04	12	54	r
Eskdalemuir	-	0.59	9	48	r
Exmouth	0.7	0.15	13	55	r
Fishguard	0.2	0.53	11	52	r
Folkestone	-	0.04	11	52	r
Glasgow	0.3	0.54	11	52	sh
Guernsey	1.4	0.11	15	59	c
Hastings	0.2	0.06	10	50	c
Hayling I.	-	0.02	10	50	du
Herne Bay	0.6	0.05	14	57	c
Hove	-	0.04	10	50	sh
Hunstanton	-	0.33	13	55	r
Isle of Man	0.4	0.30	10	50	r
Isle of Wight	X	0.03	11	52	r

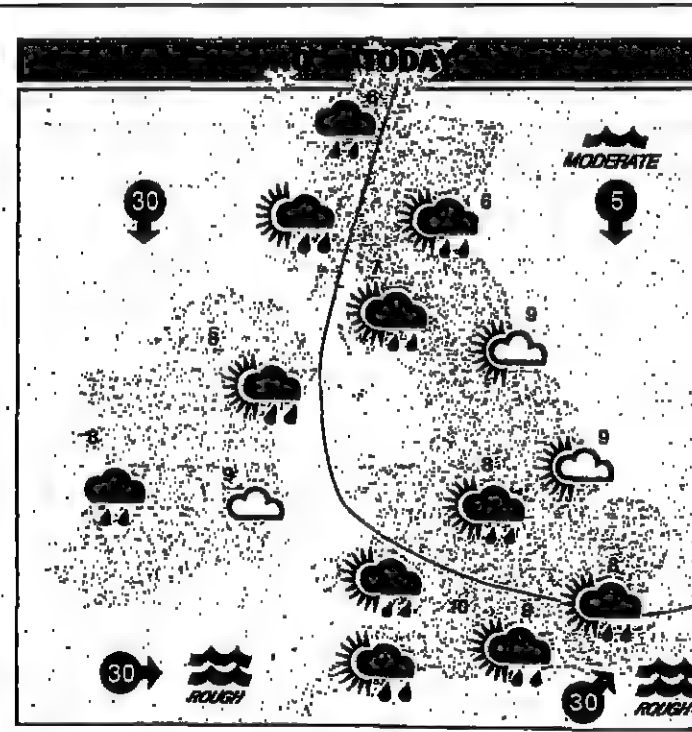
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Jersey	2.8	0.19	13	55	c
Kinloss	0.8	0.06	10	50	r
Leeds	-	0.28	12	54	r
Lerwick	0.4	0.09	5	41	sl
Leuchars	-	0.10	10	50	r
Littlehampton	-	0.07	11	52	sh
London	0.1	0.03	15	59	r
Lowestoft	-	0.26	13	55	r
Manchester	-	0.69	12	54	r
Margate	-	0.03	13	55	du
Morecambe	-	1.00	10	50	r
Newcastle	-	0.18	11	52	r
Newquay	-	0.32	13	55	r
Norwich	-	0.29	14	57	r
Oxford	-	0.20	15	59	r
Penzance	0.1	0.49	13	55	r
Prestatyn	0.1	0.46	12	54	r
Ross on Wye	-	0.21	13	55	r
Saunton Sands	-	0.22	11	52	du
Shrewsbury	-	0.25	13	55	r
Skegness	-	0.19	13	55	sh
Southend	0.2	0.04	12	54	du
Southport	X	0.32	10	50	r
Stornoway	3.1	0.19	9	48	r
Swanage	-	0.09	11	52	r
Teignmouth	1.5	0.20	14	57	r
Tiree	3.2	0.17	10	50	sh
Weymouth	-	0.18	11	52	r

ABROAD

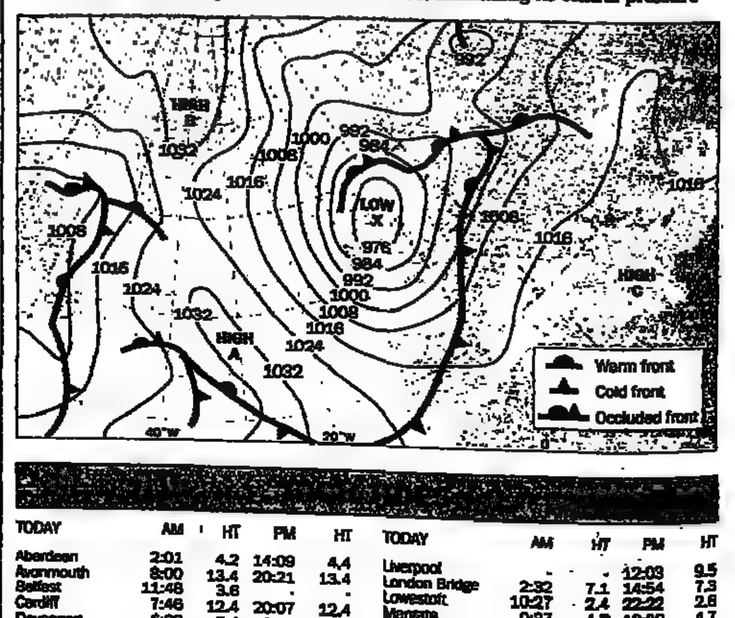
Ajaccio	16	61	s
Akrotiri	19	66	s
Alex'dria	20	68	s
Algiers	13	55	r
Amst'dm	10	50	r
Athens	17	63	c
Bahrain	25	77	s
Bangkok	34	93	f
Barbados	29	84	s
Barcelona	14	57	s
Beijing	12	54	s
Beirut	17	63	s
Belgrade	13	55	s
Berlin	6	43	r
Bermuda	21	70	f
Biarritz	12	54	s
Bordeaux	13	55	f
Brussels	10	50	r
Budapest	13	55	s
B Aires	31	88	f
Cairo	21	70	s
Cape Tn	24	75	s
Chicago	4	39	s
Ch'church	X		
Cologne	9	48	c
C'phagn	5	41	f
Corfu	15	59	f
Dublin	11	52	r
Dubrovnik	14	57	s
Faro	19	66	s
Florence	14	57	s
Frankfurt	9	48	c
Funchal	17	63	c
Geneva	11	52	f
Gibraltar	18	61	s
Helsinki	1	34	c
Hong K	24	75	s
Innsbruck	7	45	s
Istanbul	14	57	s
Jeddah	25	77	s
Jo'burg	31	88	f
L Palmas	19	66	c
Le Touqt	9	48	f
Lisbon	15	59	c
Locarno	11	52	s
L Angeles	19	66	s
Luxembg	5	41	r
Luxor	24	75	s
Madrid	12	54	s
Majorca	15	59	s
Malaga	18	64	s
Malta	16	61	c
Melbourne	X		
Mexico C	21	70	s
Miami	23	73	s
Milan	14	57	s
Montreal	1	34	f
Moscow	-3	27	sn
Munich	11	52	s
Nairobi	30	86	f
Naples	17	63	s
N Delhi	24	75	s
N York	7	45	r
Nice	16	61	s
Oslo	3	37	s
Paris	10	60	c
Perth	X		
Prague	8	46	f
Reykjavik	0	32	s
Rhodes	17	63	s
Rio de J	30	86	s
Riyadh	26	79	f
Rome	15	59	s
R'ndsway	7	45	c
Salzburg	10	50	s
S Frisco	12	54	s
Santiago	21	70	c
S Paulo	X		
Seoul	8	46	c
Singapore	30	86	f
Stockholm	4	39	s
Strasb'rg	8	46	f
Sydney	21	70	c
Tangier	17	63	f
Tel Aviv	19	66	f
Tenerife	19	66	c
Tokyo	11	52	s
Toronto	2	36	s
Tunis	16	61	c
Valencia	17	63	s
Vanc'ver	7	45	c
Venice	8	46	s
Vienna	13	55	s
Warsaw	6	43	c
Wash'ton	9	48	f
Zurich	7	45	f

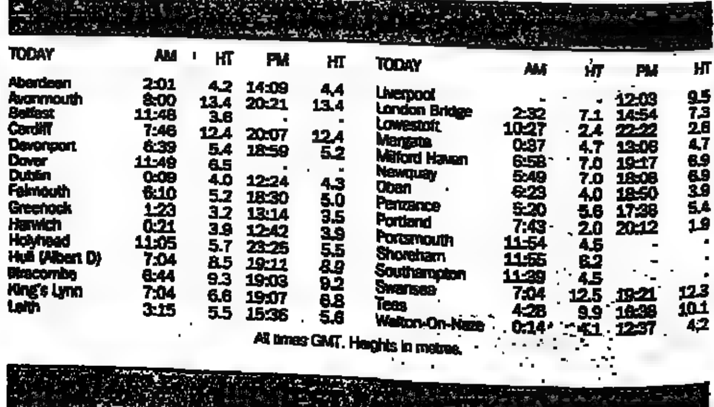
Temperatures at midday local time on Monday. X = not available

TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: low X will move slowly eastwards and fill; high A will extend northwards and weaken; high B will remain stationary and also weaken; high C will drift eastwards, maintaining its central pressure





TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	2:01	4.2	14:09	4.4
Avonmouth	8:00	13.4	20:21	13.4
Belfast	11:48	3.6	-	-
Cardiff	7:46	12.4	20:07	12.4
Devonport	6:39	5.4	18:59	5.2
Dover	11:49	6.5	-	-
Dublin	0:09	4.0	12:24	4.3
Falmouth	6:10	5.2	18:30	5.0
Greenock	1:23	3.2	13:14	3.5
Harwich	0:21	3.9	12:42	3.9
Holyhead	11:05	5.7	23:25	5.5
Hull (Albert D)	7:04	8.5	19:11	8.9
Ilfracombe	6:44	9.3	19:03	9.2
King's Lynn	7:04	6.6	19:07	6.8
Leith	3:15	5.5	15:36	5.6
Liverpool	-	-	12:03	9.5
London Bridge	2:32	7.1	14:54	7.3
Lowestoft	10:27	2.4	22:22	2.6
Margate	0:37	4.7	13:06	4.7
Milford Haven	6:58	7.0	19:17	6.9
Newquay	5:49	7.0	18:08	6.9
Oban	6:23	4.0	18:50	3.9
Penzance	5:20	5.6	17:38	5.4
Portland	7:43	2.0	20:12	1.9
Portsmouth	11:54	4.5	-	-
Shoreham	11:55	6.2	-	-
Southampton	11:39	4.5	-	-
Swansea	7:04	12.5	19:21	12.3
Tees	4:28	9.9	16:38	10.1
Walton-On-Naze	0:14	4.1	12:37	4.2

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

Yesterday's extremes: highest day temp: London, Heathrow, 15C (59F); lowest day temp: Lerwick, Shetland, 5C (41F); most rain: Capel Curig, North Wales, 1.8in; most sun: Tiree, Inner Hebrides, 3.2hrs.

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THE TIMES 2

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY MARCH 3 1999

Andre Previn at 70
Arts, page 28

United's European obsession
Sport, page 40

Hewlett-Packard chief goes in demerger



Platt: to be replaced by an outsider

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

HEWLETT-PACKARD, the world's second-biggest computer manufacturer behind Compaq, yesterday announced the demerger of a key division and the departure of its executive chairman.

The $75 billion (£47 billion) company, a Silicon Valley pioneer set up in 1938, is demerging its main hardware business from its subsidiary specialising in electronic testing equipment.

Lewis Platt, chairman, one of the computer industry's most powerful men, will step down after the demerger, almost two years before he was due to retire. He is expected to be replaced by an executive from outside the company.

The comprehensive restructuring is aimed at boosting profitability at the troubled company and refocusing on Internet technology.

The demerger aims to take advantage of the huge investor interest in Internet-related stocks. Hewlett-Packard shares have lagged behind those of its competitors. The shares rose 17 per cent over the past two years while Compaq, the industry leader, went from $15 to $45.

Hewlett-Packard has struggled to maintain its high profitability in recent quarters as prices for computers and printers tumbled even though demand remained strong. Economic problems in Asia and Latin America are said to have contributed to the profitability problems.

Edward Barnholt, an executive vice-president, will become head of the measurements company. An outsider is expected to be hired for the top job at the hardware business, which earns 85 per cent of the company's revenues of about $47 billion a year.

The first signs of a significant shake-up at Hewlett-Packard came last December when the company cut pay for 2,400 managers by 5 per cent in an effort to curb costs. The three-month pay cut came at a time when salaries in the rest of the industry were rising steeply to retain scarce talent.

Analysts had expected the company to take drastic action after it announced earlier that profits had fallen 13 per cent, leading to a 15 per cent share price drop in a single week. The disappointing results marked the eighth time in nine quarters that Hewlett-Packard had remained below analysts' expectations.

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Rentokil punished for failure to hit targets

BY ROBERT COLE
CITY CORRESPONDENT

NEARLY £1.5 billion was wiped off the value of the Rentokil Initial, the rat catching and toilet towel business service group yesterday.

The immediate cause of the stock market dismay was the news that Rentokil, whose chief executive, Sir Clive Thompson, is also President of Confederation of British Industry, failed to meet its long-held target of growing profits by 20 per cent a year.

The company said that the Asian economic crisis coupled with adverse movements in exchange rates to restrict growth in profits to 17.6 per cent. Earnings per share rose by 18.4 per cent. However, if the impact of currencies is ignored, Rentokil bettered its ambitions.

Sir Clive said: "Against the targets we set ourselves this was a failure."

The self-imposed target has earned fabled status in the City and given Sir Clive the nickname "Mr 20 Per Cent".

It was only the second time in 17 years that Rentokil failed to grow profits and earnings per share by one fifth. The last time was in 1985.

Sir Clive said the group remained committed to its growth targets but said that it was unrealistic to expect the goals would be met year in and year out. He said yesterday that the targets were designed to be a "rallying cry" for employees.

"It is no longer a 50-year guarantee that Rentokil will lift profits by 20 per cent a year. But if we achieve the objective 80 per cent of the time we will still be doing pretty well," Sir Clive said.

He added that his pay for 1998 would reflect the less-impressive growth achieved last year. Sir Clive's bonus is linked to growth in earnings per share. "You will see when the annual report is published that my pay has gone down."

He also defended the company's record on payments to suppliers. He said that the criticism Rentokil has attracted for late payment of bills was unfair and he claimed that the company paid its suppliers in an average of 51 days when it is paid by its customers in an average of 52 days.

Rentokil's corporate policy is to pay interest at base rate plus 1 per cent to suppliers who receive payment after the agreed time. Sir Clive said that the policy had been revised to ensure that if Rentokil fails to meet payment commitments to smaller companies with higher costs of borrowing, they would receive greater compensation.

Rentokil, which is renowned for its acquisitive nature, also said that it is prepared to return capital to shareholders. Sir Clive said that if opportunities to acquire or invest in its business do not arise it will either buy back shares, or make special dividend payments, or pursue a policy of paying enhanced ordinary dividends.

For the year to December 31 pre-tax profits were £490 million, up from £417 million. Earnings per share were 12.22p up from 10.32p.

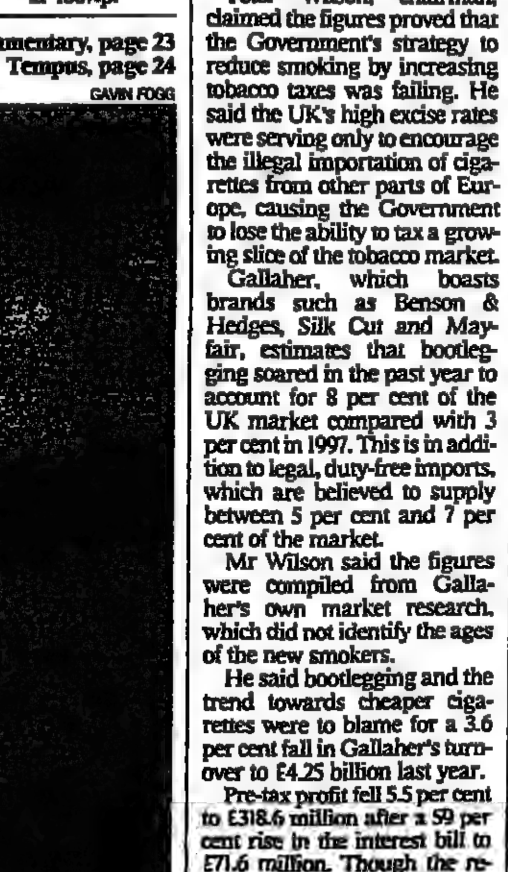
Sales grew by only 0.8 per cent to £2.9 billion. Rentokil said it had sacrificed some sales because it decided to increase prices to some customers. Across the group, pre-tax profit margins improved from 14.5 per cent to 16.9 per cent.

The total dividend was raised 20.9 per cent to 3.7p from 3.06p. The final payment is 2.63p. The shares closed down 48p — or 10.7 per cent — at 400¼p.

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GAVIN FOGG





Sir Clive Thompson, who said the company's self-imposed target of 20 per cent annual growth should now be seen as a rallying cry for its employees

Rate cut hopes bolstered by fresh earnings data

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

HOPES that the Bank of England will cut rates again were bolstered yesterday by the long-awaited publication of the average earnings figures, which confirmed that wage growth slowed markedly in the second half of last year.

The average earnings data were suspended last November after a series of revisions had altered the underlying path of wage growth during the first half of 1998, casting doubt on the Bank's decision to raise rates to 7.5 per cent in June.

The new data, which has been produced in the wake of two independent reports into the quality of the figures, show wage growth reaching a peak of 5.7 per cent in May 1998 and then falling back to hit 4.5 per cent in November and a provisional figure of 4.2 per cent in December.

Both the Confederation of British Industry and the Trades Union Congress seized on the data as evidence that the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee should make a further rate cut when its monthly meeting concludes today.

However, the City was less convinced that the data would swing the MPC's decision and the pound continued its recovery against the dollar and the euro.

The new pay figures would appear to vindicate the Bank's decision to raise rates last June. The data show that earnings growth was slightly stronger than originally suspected in the first half of last year and far in excess of the growth rate that emerged after the controversial data revisions last October.

Martin Weale, director of the National Institute for Economic and Social Research, who led the inquiry into the statistics, yesterday published his report stating that the Office for National Statistics made a number of key mistakes when it originally revised the data series last October. In particular, the sample sizes for financial intermediary companies and the private health sector were far too small, prompting excessive volatility in the overall data. However, the ONS still made the "regrettable and surprising" decision to publish the revised data despite Tim Holt, director of the ONS, raising serious doubts about its accuracy.

Gallaher claims 5% rise in number of UK smokers

BY PAUL ARMSTRONG

THE number of cigarette smokers in the UK jumped by 500,000, or 5 per cent, last year, according to startling research released yesterday by Gallaher Group, Britain's biggest maker of tobacco products.

Gallaher said it was the first increase recorded for more than 20 years and was a direct result of the sharp rise in cheaper, illegal cigarette imports by organised crime syndicates.

Peter Wilson, chairman, claimed the figures proved that the Government's strategy to reduce smoking by increasing tobacco taxes was failing. He said the UK's high excise rates were serving only to encourage the illegal importation of cigarettes from other parts of Europe, causing the Government to lose the ability to tax a growing slice of the tobacco market.

Gallaher, which boasts brands such as Benson & Hedges, Silk Cut and Mayfair, estimates that bootlegging soared in the past year to account for 8 per cent of the UK market compared with 3 per cent in 1997. This is in addition to legal, duty-free imports, which are believed to supply between 5 per cent and 7 per cent of the market.

Mr Wilson said the figures were compiled from Gallaher's own market research, which did not identify the ages of the new smokers.

He said bootlegging and the trend towards cheaper cigarettes were to blame for a 3.6 per cent fall in Gallaher's turnover to £4.25 billion last year.

Pre-tax profit fell 5.5 per cent to £318.6 million after a 59 per cent rise in the interest bill to £71.6 million. Though the results were in line with market expectations, Gallaher shares lost 2¾p to 447½p.

Continued cost-cutting helped to lift operating margins from 38.6 per cent to 41.6 per cent. A final dividend of 13.7p was declared, taking the year's payout to 20.5p (19.25p).

Figures supplied by Gallaher show that a packet of cigarettes which sells in the UK for £3.64 returns tax of £2.88. This compares with France where tax of £1.50 is paid on a packet of cigarettes selling for £1.98.

A Gallaher spokesman said the company had informed the Government of the findings of the research and urged it to lower the tax in return for retaining market control. He said it was unclear whether the Government would continue its strategy of lifting the duty on tobacco each year by at least 5 per cent more than the inflation rate.

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Watchdog criticises loan cover

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

A GOVERNMENT initiative to encourage more homeowners to take out private loan insurance and not rely on state benefits if they fall ill or lose their jobs has come under attack from a leading consumer watchdog just seven days after it was launched.

Walter Merricks, the Insurance Ombudsman, yesterday raised the alarm over the Government's backing for a new form of mortgage payment protection which has given insurers and lenders free rein to set ambitious sales targets but has failed to insist on radical improvements in the way the cover is sold to the public.

Mortgage payment protection insurance (MPPI) and other policies designed to protect borrowers from accident, sickness and unemployment have become notorious in recent years for their cost and the complexity of their clauses.

Up to 40 per cent of the premiums paid by borrowers go to lenders which has led to accusations that the insurance is frequently being sold to people who do not need it.

Only last year a survey by the Association of British Insurers discovered that many staff at banks and building societies were breaking the industry's code of conduct by not explaining how the policies worked or what items were excluded from the cover.

Last week the ABI and Council of Mortgage Lenders sought to redress this by unveiling new minimum standards to which providers of MPPI must adhere in future.

Although the new benchmark should reduce the amount of variation between policies, it says nothing on the issue of cost or selling practice.

Despite these inadequacies, the Government has given lenders and insurers the go-ahead to target 55 per cent of new borrowers with the insurance.

This has alarmed Mr Merricks. He said yesterday: "There is a sales target but there is no target to to improve compliance with the industry's code of conduct, which I find surprising."

In his latest annual report Mr Merricks describes the insurance industry record on payment protection as "pretty dismal" over the past five years. The issue of compliance has become acute ever since the Government decided to replace statutory control of general insurance with a form of self-regulation under the Financial Services Authority.

Although payment protection insurance is not the biggest cause of complaints to the ombudsman's office — only 11 per cent of the 3,444 cases last year centred on loan insurance — Mr Merricks said that they tended to be fundamental grievances.

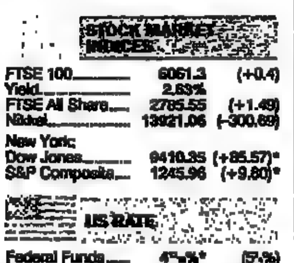
A government spokesman said that the sales process was an issue for the industry.

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Business Today



Reaching the next level
Sony raises its game with new PlayStation
Page 25



STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	6061.3	(+0.4)
Yield	2.63%	
FTSE All Share	2785.55	(+1.49)
Nikkei	13921.06	(-300.69)
New York:		
Dow Jones	9410.35	(+85.57)*
S&P Composite	1245.96	(+9.80)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	[illegible]*	[illegible]
Long bond	[illegible]*	[illegible]
Yield	5.62%*	(5.69%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	[illegible]	[illegible]
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	115.73	(115.71)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6137*	(1.6073)
London:		
$	1.6158	(1.6078)
€	1.4787	(1.4705)
SFr	2.3555	(2.3406)
Yen	194.35	(192.00)
£ Index	102.2	(101.6)

DOLLAR

London:		
€	1.0930*	(1.0890)
SFr	1.4590*	(1.4617)
Yen	120.50*	(119.90)
$ Index	108.3	(108.2)

Tokyo close Yen 120.08

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (May)	$11.05	($10.90)

GOLD

London close	$288.15	($285.65)

* denotes midday trading prices

Exchange rates .... Page 22

BoS teams up with evangelist

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

BANK of Scotland is to launch a joint venture in the US with the Rev Pat Robertson, the TV evangelist and Republican politician who campaigned for the impeachment of President Clinton.

The direct-banking operation is expected to be called the New Foundation Bank. It will have Mr Robertson as its chairman, although Bank of Scotland will hold a majority stake. The new bank will target the 55 million viewers of Mr Robertson's Christian Broadcasting Network. Mr Robertson, who has a vast business empire in the US, was earlier this year appointed a non-executive director of Laura Ashley, the UK retailer.

Peter Burt, Bank of Scotland chief executive, said the bank would concentrate initially on attracting deposits, though eventually it could offer credit cards and loans. "We need to see how big an inflow of funds we can get," he said.

Born-again banking, page 25

NU sets aside £750m to cover annuities

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

NORWICH UNION has set aside a total of £750 million to cover the cost of guaranteed pension annuities sold to customers up to 25 years ago.

The insurance company said yesterday that it had added £375 million to its annuity provisions last year, out of a with-profits fund of £27.5 billion. Successive interest rate falls have forced insurers to set aside reserves to cover the cost of paying guaranteed rates.

The news came as NU unveiled an 11 per cent rise in operating earnings before tax to £716 million, against a pro-forma 1997 figure of £644 million, and an 8 per cent rise in pre-tax profit to £777 million.

Analysts were cheered by news that on the general insurance side, which accounts for 18 per cent of worldwide profits, premium rate rises were beginning to stick. The bulk of NU's UK general insurance portfolio, which saw a small increase in operating earnings before tax to £129 million, is personal, motor and household business.

The rise in profit was achieved despite the storms and floods of 1998, which cost the group £20 million.

Richard Harvey, group chief executive, said NU put up motor rates by between 5 and 7 per cent last year and hoped to continue the increases in 1999. He said this vindicated his decision to buy London & Edinburgh Insurance Group last November, a move that was criticised by bearish analysts. The acquired business reported a £3 million operating loss for the year.

Mr Harvey added: "London & Edinburgh satisfies our ambitions in general insurance. We would love to go for something in the life sector but at the moment the only companies available are ones that are in trouble."

NU's worldwide life, pensions and investment operations achieved new business growth of 6 per cent in local currency terms, including an 8 per cent growth in the UK and a 9 per cent in local currency in Europe.

Operating earnings before tax of UK life and pensions rose 7 per cent to £486 million (£453 million), and nearly doubled in Europe to £60 million (£32 million). International life business earnings fell to £18 million (£26 million).

Two million NU customers received windfall shares when the insurer demutualised in 1997 with 45 per cent of them still holding the stock.

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Gas-power stations hurt RJB profits

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

DEEP COALMINING by Britain's biggest coal producer became a loss-maker last year as RJB Mining struggled with falling prices and high production costs.

Deep mines — the core of RJB's business — fell to a £4.8 million loss in the second half of last year and overall pre-tax profits crashed to £50 million, from £171 million.

RJB gave warning of more reductions in use of coal this year as additional new gas-fired power stations eat into its electricity supply market.

The profits fell short of City expectations. Charles Kernot, the leading industry analyst, who is with Paribas, had forecast £60 million. He said: "There must be some increase in productivity. The cost of producing coal is close to the selling price."

RJB shares fell 7p to 62½p. The final dividend, due on May 24, falls to 4p (10p), making 7p (20p). Earnings per share slumped to 22.8p (78.3p).

Gordon McPhie, finance director, said that deep mines' profitability had been hit by geological problems late last year, but that RJB was trying to ensure that costs fell by 2 to 3 per cent a year. However, RJB's options are limited, he conceded. The company has just signed an enhanced pay deal with the Union of Democratic Mineworkers after a threat of strike action. It is to offer the same deal to the National Union of Mineworkers, which yesterday declared a mandate for industrial action.

Immediate pit closures are not yet on the cards, but are likely if National Power's long-term demands for coal fall short of production. The generator has signed for supplies until 2001, but has still to commit itself beyond that date as it waits on government and regulatory approval for its acquisition of Midlands Electricity's supply business and its sale of Drax power station.

For the year to December 31, RJB's coal sales fell from 31.2 million tonnes to 25.9 million tonnes. Underground output declined from 25.3 million tonnes to 19.8 million tonnes.

RJB has still to reveal the strategic review that it vaunted with the announcement of its interim results in October. Mr McPhie said that the bulk of the work was done, but final decisions remained. The company is under pressure to announce an overseas acquisition to bring about some growth in the business.

JEREMY RENDELL



John Barton, left, Jardine Lloyd Thompson's chairman, and Ken Carter, chief executive

JLT makes progress in first year after merger

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

JARDINE Lloyd Thompson, the insurance broker formed by the merger of JIB and Lloyd Thompson two years ago, enjoyed a robust first full year in 1998.

Despite weak market conditions, JLT increased pre-tax profits before exceptionals by £7.8 million, to £58.3 million, on turnover up 3 per cent, to £232 million, as it cut back on costs and won new business.

Operating profits before exceptional items rose by 19 per cent, to £54.9 million. Earnings per share leapt by 22 per cent, to 20.7p, from 17p in 1997.

JLT is now London's largest quoted insurance broker after Willis Corroon was sold to KKR, the US buyout specialist, and Sedgwick was sold to the US broking giant Marsh & McLennan.

Although only ranked fifth in the world, JLT has begun to find favour from many companies that are wary of the heavy dominance of the US brokers Aon and Marsh & McLennan and wish to deal with an independent.

Ken Carter, chief executive, said: "In the last four months, we have won two substantial international accounts and a handful of UK ones, which frankly we wouldn't have had a chance of getting a few years ago."

A 7p final dividend makes a year's total of 12p, against an annualised equivalent in 1997 of 10.8p. The shares rose 12p, to 182p, yesterday.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Dutch court to hear case against Gucci

BERNARD ARNAULT, chairman of LVMH, will today have his case against Gucci heard in an Amsterdam court. M Arnault alleges that Gucci has illegally created 20 million new shares through a new employee trust to neutralise the 20 million in Gucci that he has bought through LVMH. He says that Gucci, which is listed in Amsterdam, is only allowed to create such a trust to benefit employees. He believes that this qualification has not been met.

If M Arnault is successful, he will have a much better chance of winning a vote on March 23, which will decide whether Gucci's board should accommodate an LVMH-nominated director. Domenico De Sole, chief executive of Gucci, says that such a director would be in a position to steal the company's business secrets and pass them on to M Arnault. As things stand, Gucci's new share trust can cancel out any vote cast by M Arnault at this meeting because both camps have a 25.6 per cent stake.

Banana battle halted

ARBITRATORS from the World Trade Organisation yesterday asked the EU and the US for more information before they rule on the transatlantic banana dispute. The request means that swingeing tariffs that the US had this week been due to put on EU imports are unlikely to be sanctioned in the WTO, diplomats said. Arbitrators had been due to rule on how much US firms might have lost because of an EU banana regime favouring fruit from former European colonies.

Brazil supports real

BRAZIL intervened in the foreign exchange markets again yesterday to prop up the real as it tumbled to a record low, threatening to throw Latin America's biggest economy deeper into crisis. Traders said that the Brazilian central bank reverted to selling dollars on Tuesday, after a day on the sidelines, in order to rein in the currency which bottomed out at a record intraday low of 2.22 to the dollar. By midday the real had inched up to a still-fragile 2.16 to the dollar.

Jermyn lifts value

JERMYN INVESTMENT PROPERTIES, a property company listed in London and Dublin, lifted net asset value last year by 62 per cent to 399.8p, from 247.5p. Jermyn has increased its total dividend to 7p, from 6p, with a final 4.3p. Pre-tax profits were £3.3 million, up from £1.7 million previously. Earnings per share were 17.29p (6.26p). The shares rose 28½p to 325p in London. Ray Horney, chairman, said lower interest rates were producing signs of increased activity in property.

Zeneca denies sell-off

ZENECA, the pharmaceuticals group that plans to merge with Astra of Sweden, has ruled out the sale of its agrochemicals business. Michael Pragnell, chief executive of Zeneca's agrochemicals arm, told analysts: "There is no intention of selling off the agrochemical business." Agrochemicals made profits of £216 million last year from sales of £1.7 billion. Analysts had suggested that AstraZeneca would sell the business to focus on the more highly rated drugs operation.

Mayflower venture

MAYFLOWER, the bus and car group, is forming a joint venture with Freightliner, a US subsidiary of DaimlerChrysler. This will see Mayflower buses sold in America via the distribution network of Freightliner, which makes heavy trucks and school buses. Mayflower has had a negligible presence in the US bus market. A deal should be signed by April and the first buses delivered in October. They will come from Mayflower's UK factories, but will be made in North Carolina eventually.

United overhaul ends

UNITED INDUSTRIES, the engineering group, said that it had almost completed its restructuring and expects to reap the full benefits this year. United has spent £4.45 million on the overhaul. Employee numbers have been cut by 20 per cent to about 1,000. Cost savings are estimated at £3.4 million a year. In the year to January 2 pre-tax profits were just £850,000 (£3.6 million). Adjusted earnings per share were 10.14p (8.05p). The final dividend of 2.9p gives a total for the year of 2.9p (2.6p).

Somerset homes deal

SOUTH SOMERSET HOMES, a housing association, has raised £116.2 million to buy 8,900 properties from the local council and build 500 more, through a bond issue and a loan organised by Paribas, the French investment bank. The association has launched a £67 million asset-backed issue and raised a further £49.2 million in bank loans from Paribas and Abbey National to finance the purchase of the properties from South Somerset District Council for £69.3 million.

BPP expresses caution

SHARES of BPP, the professional education group, fell by more than 10 per cent yesterday after the company reported results below expectations. For 1998, pre-tax profits rose 8 per cent to £13.1 million with earnings per share rising to 30.7p (28.3p) and the total dividend up 1.25p to 17.25p. Richard Price, chairman, said: "The fields in which we operate are not immune from lower levels of business confidence — we start 1999 with a degree of caution." The shares fell 55p to 460p.

Fairview advances

FAIRVIEW, the housebuilder that demerged from Hillsdown Holdings last year, criticised local authorities yesterday for the "extortionate payments" demanded for planning consents. It called for reform of the current "totally unsatisfactory legislation which is a form of concealed taxation". Fairview reported an underlying 10 per cent rise in pre-tax profit for 1998 to £48.1 million and a maiden dividend of 2.75p. It said planning delays would mean lower sales volumes this year.

Johnson Fry to pay despite loss

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

JOHNSON FRY, the fund manager, is maintaining its final dividend despite a fourfold increase in losses caused by a two-year reconstruction.

The final payout remains 2p a share, making an unchanged 4p total, although pre-tax losses rose to £1.2 million in 1998, from £226,000.

Rebecca Thomas, managing director, said that the figures hid strong underlying growth in fund management, now the company's sole activity. In the past two years, the company has sold Pinnacle, its housing division, and Healthsave, its medical insurance business.

Ms Thomas said: "The final dividend is uncovered, but we can afford it because we are sitting on £6.3 million of cash, some of which we will be investing in the fund management business."

At operating level, continuing activities improved from a £1.4 million loss in 1997 to a £169,000 profit. Funds under management rose by 25 per cent to £1.18 billion.

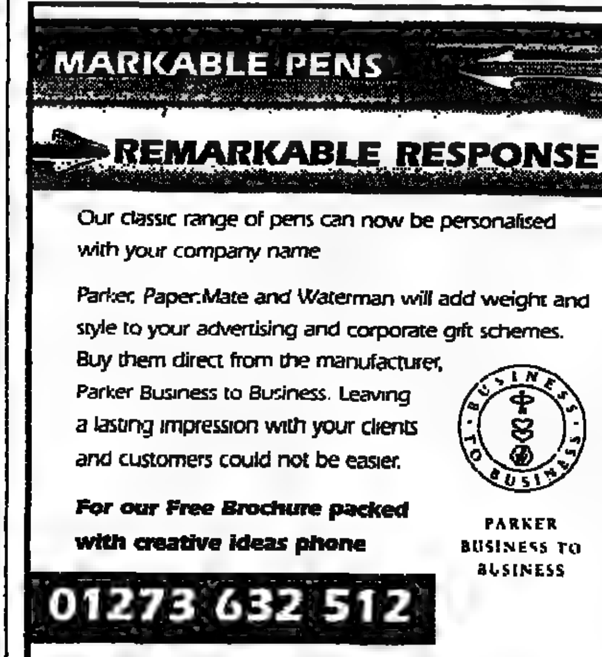
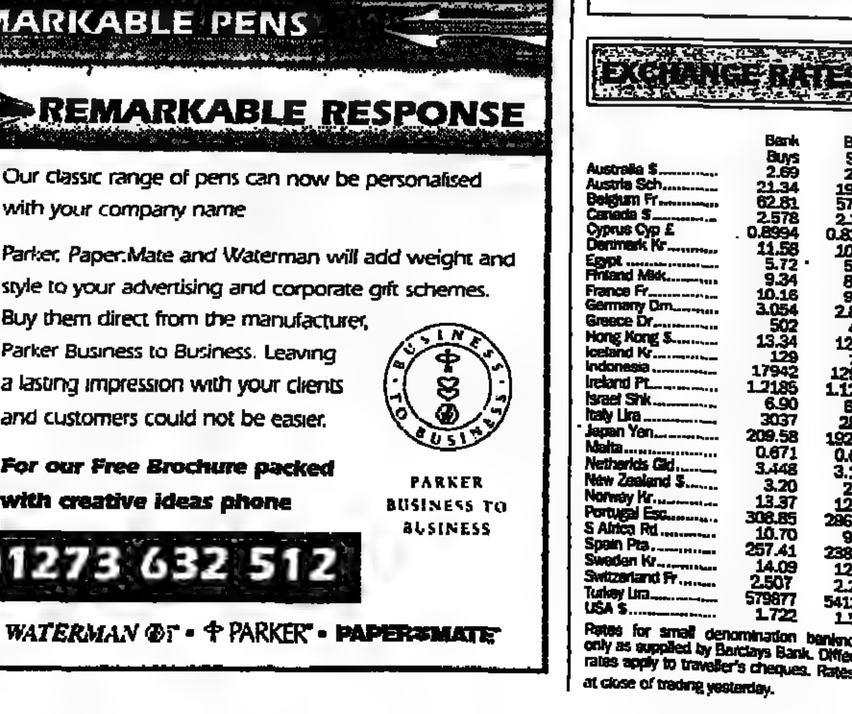
Accountants to offer website 'Kitemark'

CHARTERED accountants are aiming to be at the heart of assuring consumers who buy products and services on the Internet that their transactions are safe (Robert Bruce writes).

Britain's three chartered accountancy institutes have joined forces to bring WebTrust, a product developed by the AICPA, the main US accountancy body, to the UK. The service provides a "seal of approval" that appears on a website that has been through rigorous tests to assure customers of its security, privacy and delivery.

It is aimed to become the equivalent of a Kitemark for e-commerce.

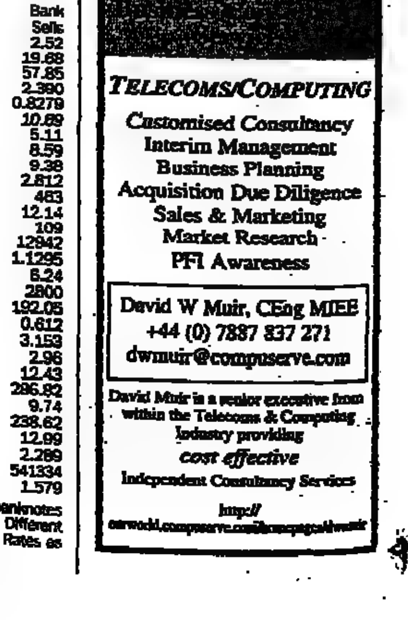
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www.aicpa.org

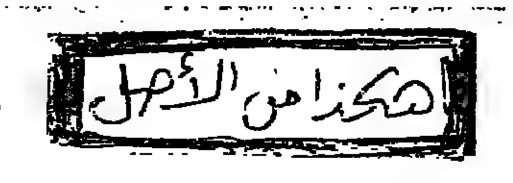



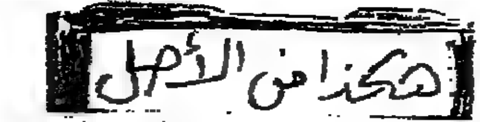
EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.69	2.52
Austria Sch	21.34	19.68
Belgium Fr	62.81	57.85
Canada $	2.578	2.390
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8994	0.8279
Denmark Kr	11.58	10.69
Egypt	5.72	5.11
Finland Mkk	9.34	8.59
France Fr	10.16	9.38
Germany Dm	3.054	2.812
Greece Dr	502	463
Hong Kong $	13.34	12.14
Iceland Kr	129	109
Indonesia	17942	12942
Ireland Pt	1.2185	1.1295
Israel Shk	6.90	6.24
Italy Lira	3037	2800
Japan Yen	209.58	192.05
Malta	0.671	0.612
Netherlds Gld	3.448	3.153
New Zealand $	3.20	2.96
Norway Kr	13.37	12.43
Portugal Esc	308.85	286.82
S Africa Rd	10.70	9.74
Spain Pta	257.41	238.62
Sweden Kr	14.09	12.99
Switzerland Fr	2.507	2.289
Turkey Lira	579877	541334
USA $	1.722	1.579

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.







Room at the top for the talented



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Sir Clive Thompson is not renowned for his tolerance and understanding so he can hardly complain when his investors take a stern line. In truth, to have increased earnings by more than 18 per cent is a remarkable achievement but, as Mrs Micawber might have advised, he who promises shareholders 10 per cent growth and delivers 11 per cent is a hero; he who promises 12 per cent and delivers only 11 per cent is a failure.

It is bad luck that Sir Clive's slippage from his self-imposed target should coincide with his reign as President of the CBI. It is not as if the Rentokil chief personally slays the vermin, but there will inevitably be some critics who mutter that Centre Point is proving something of a distraction.

Certainly, Sir Clive is as determined to achieve results at the CBI as he is at Rentokil. Under his leadership, the CBI agenda has demonstrated a new scepticism for the Third Way of doing business. This is, apparently, not responsible for the decision of Adair Turner, the Director-General, to leave at the end of the year: he had long planned to take time off to write a book. But it does leave the CBI hunting for a DG when such animals are much in demand.

The Institute of Directors, the Association of British Insurers, the Engineering Employers Federation and the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders all have the headhunters out in search of their equivalents of chief executives. Whatever qualities the organisations are seeking, the candidates will have near the top of their considerations the identity of the chairman with whom they will have to work. And if Sir Clive is a tough taskmaster to himself, as at Rentokil, then he can be expected to be no less demanding of those who work with him.

With so many similar roles on offer at once, the organisations will have to use a degree of imagination in finding suitable candidates. The IoD's insistence on someone with real business experience to follow on from Tim Melville-Ross may rule out the media-friendly Ruth Lea just as it did her predecessor, Ann Robinson, who promptly left to run the National Association of Pension Funds.

Over at the ABI, Mark Boleat may have to postpone his departure date beyond the end of April, so tricky is the search for a replacement proving. Speaking up for the financial services industry may not be everyone's idea of the ideal job. After five years at it, Mr Boleat has decided to bow out of trade associations. It may be that there are just too many bodies trying to make their case to Government. The Engineering Employers used to have a role negotiating with trade unions. Without that, the CBI thought a merger made sense, particularly since the EEF has a healthy dowry. Perhaps the idea should be revived, then at least the number of searches for top talent could be narrowed.

The market magic of short division

Share price lagging again? Try new management or dramatic cost-cutting. Failing that, there is always a spot of financial engineering.

Fans of Allied Domecq, which has spent two pointless generations of management effort refocusing from a drinks and food company to a drinks and eateries group, are used to despair. The shares are about a quarter down from last year's peak.

Hopes of an imminent demerger have therefore been dredged up again. No matter that attempts to merge with another spirits business have fallen under the table. No matter that the pubs and restaurants side has just issued a profits warning, not the ideal prelude to a separate quotation: some day, all that potential will be realised. But over in California, demerger is nigh for tetchy investors in Hewlett-Packard. The pioneer that first turned plum orchards into Silicon Valley is to split itself in two.

Out goes the instrument business that sent the group on its transistorised way. Up go the shares. Freed from the detritus of history, the remaining six sevenths of the business will be suffused with new energy to expand from computers into highly rated Internet hardware.

Yes, Hewlett-Packard has a problem, too. During two years in which computer-linked stocks carried all before them, H-P lacked spice and underperformed the Dow, of which it is an honoured but inevitably slightly middle-aged constituent.

Hiving off one seventh of your business is not quite the revolution that 3M or AT&T have undergone. For a $75 billion (£46 billion) group, however, it is, inevitably, a big deal. The instrument group, covering anything from measurement to medicine, is being touted as the biggest public offering in Silicon Valley's history.

Both this and the main computer group are mature businesses in fast-growing industries. For years, annual growth of 20 per cent could be relied on. Of late, it has been harder to come by, as even Rentokil has shown. Computer sales are booming but prices are bombing. Asia's crisis does not help.

H-P keeps making things that change our lives, but the Silicon Valley action is in Internet software groups that make little or no profit and a tiny fraction of Big Daddy's $40 billion sales.

The lesson runs both ways. If ever the Internet stocks attain the operating size that their market values imply, they will be hard-pressed to maintain the pace that their ratings demand.

Protection money must be necessary

For the unwary, the plethora of financial products on offer is fraught with danger. Even the Government appears liable to make a dud decision when venturing into the world of mortgages and insurance. The insurance ombudsman was audibly despairing yesterday. Despite all the warnings he has given on the subject of mortgage-protection policies, along comes HMG and signs on the dotted line.

But, as does occasionally happen, this was not so much a case of mis-selling as mis-buying. The simple proposition that those with mortgages should have insurance cover to ensure that the mortgage payments are met in the event of redundancy, illness or even death brooks no argument. That should not be converted into a Government advertisement for mortgage-protection policies, too many of which are swathed in dangerous small print aimed at eradicating any such protection.

It was the previous Government that did much of the financial services industry's work for it in mis-selling personal pensions. It would be scandalous if a similar exercise were to be undertaken by the current administration. The ombudsman wants the DTI to take action to ensure that the policies are necessary and effective before it makes them compulsory. That seems a reasonable stance. There is much talk of improving children's understanding of financial services. Perhaps ministers could sit in on the classes.

Fiscal smoke-ring

CHEAP cigarettes from the Continent cost both the Exchequer and UK companies dear. They may also be boosting numbers of smokers. Cut duties to cut out contraband, manufacturers are bound to say. But they must know it is unrealistic. This is one occasion when Gordon Brown should indulge alike his Puritan instincts and his Federal proclivities. He should persuade our EU partners to swap cant for action on cigarettes and harmonise their duties and their enforcement efforts upwards.

Merger for CDL and M&C Hotels in the pipeline

By Dominic Walsh

MILLENNIUM & Copthorne Hotels could be merged with CDL Hotels International, its Hong Kong-listed majority shareholder, to form a global four-star hotel group.

Kwek Leng Beng, the Singapore-based chairman of both companies, admitted yesterday that combining M&C, which has 24 hotels in Europe and New York, with its 52 per cent shareholder was "one of the options" he was considering in a bid to boost his hotel interests.

"Ultimately they will either have to work so closely together as to be considered as one company, or some kind of integration will need to be worked through to the benefit of both sets of shareholders," he said. The possibility of a merger follows recent moves by CDL to convert some of its hotels to Singapore and New Zealand to the Copthorne brand. Meanwhile, both companies are developing Millennium Hotels and Resorts as an upmarket corporate brand. Such a merger would effectively reverse the spinning off of M&C from CDL in 1996, although the London listing would be retained.

M&C yesterday unveiled a sparkling 20 per cent jump in 1998 pre-tax profits to £60.4 million from turnover up 10 per cent at £221.9 million. Earnings per share reached 30.6p (25.9p) and a final dividend of 6.9p makes a total of 10.2p (8.6p). The shares gained 11p to 536p.

Room occupancy was flat at 79.4 per cent, but a 9 per cent rise in the average room rate to £89.56 lifted the key yield per available room to £71.11 (£65.42). In London, the yield rose 4 per cent to £73.68 while the provinces were 8 per cent higher at £50.49. The strongest performance came from New York, where the yield was 12 per cent higher at £110.28.

John Wilson, chief executive, admitted that trading in the UK had seen "some softening", but the US was "going great guns". He added: "This is by no means a recession situation. Revenues in the first two months of 1999 are up year on year and we're looking forward with a degree of confidence."

Analysts have expressed concern at the lack of corporate activity but Mr Kwek said he would have no hesitation if the price was right. He hinted that, if necessary, he would consider diluting CDL's shareholding below 50 per cent to secure the right deal.

For the time being, however, the group is considering a number of opportunities in London, New York and Paris and is close to securing a management contract for a further UK hotel. Mr Kwek admitted that, subject to planning consent, he was interested in buying or operating Victoria House, an imposing neo-classical office building in Bloomsbury Square, London, which until last week was shortlisted as a possible home for the new mayor of London.

He also confirmed his interest in buying the Howard Hotel, just along the Thames from the Savoy Hotel, although he implied that the price being asked by the Barclay brothers, who own it, was too high. They are rumoured to be asking at least £40 million for the 153-room hotel.

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Alcatel in $2bn bid for Xylan

From a Correspondent in Paris

ALCATEL, the French telecoms group, announced a $2 billion (£1.25 billion) agreed cash bid for Xylan Corp, a US manufacturer of Internet equipment, whose shares trade on the Nasdaq market.

The move further reduces Alcatel's dependence on former European monopoly telecoms operators, its traditional clients, whose shrinking needs prompted a disastrous September profit warning that knocked 40 per cent off the share price in two days.

Alcatel had been considering setting up a separately listed US subsidiary but has dropped this plan.

Serge Tchuruk, chairman of Alcatel, said the company expected to announce another acquisition, worth up to $300 million, in remote access.

"We are fishing with a line, not a dragnet," M Tchuruk said, referring to the company's 1998 acquisitions of DSC and Packet Engines, the Xylan bid and the pending purchase. "We are taking a lead on even our most respectable competitors," he added.

Alcatel believes the convergence between voice telephony and data switching will accelerate and it can add Xylan's position in local area networks (LAN) and Internet protocol (IP) to its stronghold in telecom switches.

Xylan's 1998 sales were $348 million. This is expected to rise to $450 million in 1999 and to more than $1 billion in 2000. At that time, Alcatel would have a 10 per cent market share in company data switching, where Xylan now has 5.6 per cent.



On the buses: Bob Davies, chief executive of Arriva, left, who welcomed Gareth Cooper as the company's chairman-elect

Arriva renews disposal plans

By Fraser Nelson

BOB DAVIES, the new chief executive of Arriva, has put the company's car leasing division back on the auction block — and hinted that its 97 car dealerships could be next.

Mr Davies, nine weeks into the job, has reversed the decision of Gordon Hodgson, his predecessor, who broke off disposal talks in December at a cost of £700,000. Mr Davies is now understood to be planning a break-up of Arriva that would transform the former Cowie Group into a dedicated bus and rail company.

Mr Davies said he should get a better price for the leasing division because end-of-lease cars are fetching better prices in the used car market. When asked if he would also sell the car dealerships, he said: "In business, you never say never." Analysts believe that Mr Davies will sell the leasing division for a marginal improvement on the prices that Mr Hodgson rejected. Early suggestions put the range between £180 million and £200 million.

As expected, the company announced the resignation of Sir James McKinnon, non-executive chairman. He will be replaced by Gareth Cooper, the former managing director of Stena UK, the ferry operator.

An expected plunge in profits from the leasing division left pre-tax profits at a forecast £94.5 million (£101 million) for 1998. The total dividend rises to 14.2p (13.5p).

Talk of slowdown hits Druid shares

By Chris Ayres

SHARES in Druid Group, the IT consultancy, yesterday fell by nearly 8 per cent, to £14, as it admitted that parts of the IT market "may slow slightly" as companies delay big projects until after 2000.

Druid, which employs more than 600 consultants in the UK and abroad, gives advice on implementing "enterprise resource planning" software packages, produced by companies such as SAP and Baan. John Pocock, chief executive, said that if clients delayed big projects, Druid could easily adapt to help them to fix urgent millennium problems. "I myself could sit down in front of a PC and fix programs in an extreme situation," he said.

Druid lifted pre-tax profits by 68 per cent, to £4 million, in its half year to December 31, on sales of £27.8 million, up 94 per cent. Earnings per share were 12.05p, up 73 per cent. An interim dividend of 1.6p, up from 1.25p, is due on April 23.

Key director quits Telecom Italia

By Carl Mortished

TELECOM ITALIA, the utility on the receiving end of a £36 billion bid from Olivetti, its much smaller rival, has lost its finance director.

Telecom Italia confirmed yesterday that Fulvio Conti had left and would be replaced by Giovanni Stella, who was previously with Agip, part of ENI, the oil and gas company.

Signor Stella was hired in December to be the right hand man to Franco Bernabe, Telecom Italia's new chief executive. Mr Bernabe is a former boss of ENI.

The boardroom upheaval is being seen as part of an effort by Signor Bernabe to get a grip on the slow-moving bureaucracy of the country's telephone company.

Signor Bernabe achieved heroic status in the financial community by transforming ENI, once a sprawling bureaucracy, riddled with corruption, into a company that could rival the world's leading oil companies.

Continent a growth black spot for CRH

By Carl Mortished
International Business Editor

CRH, the building materials firm based in the Irish Republic, suffered a growth hiatus in continental Europe last year while its Irish and North American profits motored ahead.

The acquisitive CRH, which spent €604 million (£410 million) buying businesses last year, including the UK brickmaker Ibstock, raised its overall pre-tax profit by 27 per cent to €409 million in 1998, but returns from mainland Europe fell 14 per cent to €66 million, because of wet spring weather in Northern Europe and pricing pressures in Poland.

Harry Sheridan, CRH finance director, said that the company was selling more cement in Poland than in Ireland. "Poland has tremendous growth but pricing does not match the high level of inflation. There is a lot of jockeying for position among cement producers."

Mr Sheridan said that CRH's acquisition drive would continue. "Last year we had 25 bolt-on acquisitions, each worth about €8 million. We would hope for a similar number this year." CRH is believed to be looking at Scancem, the Nordic building materials firm that owns Castle Cement, the second-largest UK producer. An auction is under way for CRH's UK-based Keyline builder's merchants, expected to fetch almost £200 million.

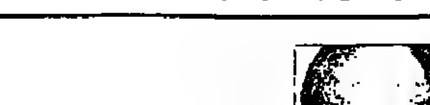
Profits in the US leapt from €172 million to €246 milion, thanks to a buoyant residential market and a sharp increase in federal funding for highways.

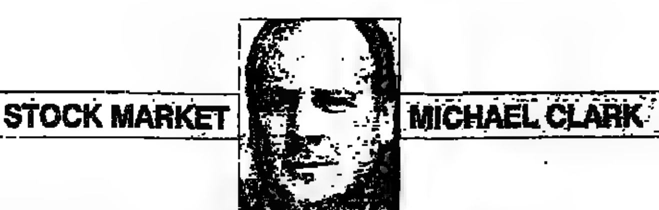
In the Irish Republic, cement sales grew 10 per cent, in contrast to Northern Ireland, where a decline in infrastructure spending led to a fall of 10 per cent in sales.

Don Godson, chief executive, said: "We expect further growth in 1999 but at different rates in different markets."

CRH is increasing the dividend by 15 per cent to 17.14 cents.







Investors display caution ahead of rate cut decision

SHARE prices marked time yesterday waiting to see if the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee votes to cut rates for the sixth time in as many months.

Last night the betting was evenly balanced with the latest average earnings figures allowing analysts to argue that there is scope for a reduction.

But in the face of such narrow odds, investors decided that caution was the best strategy and remained on the sidelines for much of the day. The FTSE 100 index having reversed an earlier fall of 27 points, eventually closed almost all square, up 0.4 at 6,061.3. The FTSE 250 index rose 18.9 to 5,277.3 in another day of thin trading that saw total turnover reach 967 million.

GEC continued to build up a full head of steam with a rise of 20p to 536p in the wake of its acquisition of Reltec. SG Securities, the broker, rates GEC a "buy" while Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, is excited by prospects at Marconi.

Great Universal Stores raced up 26p to 822p with several brokers giving chase. WestLB Panmure was a buyer, while Merrill Lynch has reiterated its "accumulate" recommendation and raised its target price from 825p to 875p.

Marks & Spencer continued to lose ground dipping back below the 400p level with a fall of 16½p to 395p as more than 18 million shares were traded. Philip Dorgan at WestLB Panmure reckons the shares are worth only 300p.

There was a lukewarm response to results from **Norwich Union**, whose chief executive is Richard Harvey, although the price did manage to close 5p better at 451¼p. NU managed to outperform its main rivals with both its life and pension and general insurance operations performing reasonably well.

The general insurers were pleased by NU's performance with **CGU** climbing 43p to 928p, and **Royal & SunAlliance** 21¼p better at 533¼p.

Swallow Group, 1p lighter at 290p, the new name for Vaux, was notable by its silence yesterday as the market awaited news of the controversial sale of most of its brewing and tenanted pub interests to a management team. The MBO team's four-week exclusivity period expired on Monday and an extension had been expected, but analysts believe the estimated £70 million deal is now finely balanced. One said last night: "You have to question whether this deal is going to happen or not."

Elsewhere in the drinks sector there was a flurry of interest in **Allied Domecq**, 4p better at 477p, after a report that it was moving closer to a demerger of its pub and retail interests. However, sources close to the company poured cold water on the report, with one observer pointing out that the recent profit warning from its pubs division made a demerger "less rather than more likely".

BTP firmed 1p to 297½p as one buyer bought a line of 2.77 million shares at 277p. They were later sold on at 283p.

Keep an eye on **Azlan**, the computer network specialist, 5p dearer at 63½p on turnover of almost 500,000 shares. Barrie Morgans, non-executive chairman, has bought 30,000 shares at 53p. The move has helped fan speculation that a bid may be on the way for the company, which has come up from a low of 33½p since October.

Talk of a large seller doing the rounds left **Triad Group** 9p down at 561p. **Shield Diagnostics** fell 35p to 465p as shareholders began switching into merger partner Axis, the Norwegian pharmaceutical group, which was changing hands at 480p on the Oslo bourse. The merger terms give Axis the upper hand and offer its shareholders a cheap way into Shield.

PPL Therapeutics was a firm market adding 7p at 96½p after bullish comments from BT Alex Brown, the broker.

AIM-listed **Wynnstay Properties** was steady at 135p as Philip Collins, chairman, picked up 25,000 shares at 135p. He now holds 260,303 shares, or 8.25 per cent.

The directors of **Perkins Foods**, 1½p down at 111p, have been buying shares just a day after the group unveiled final results. Ian Blackburn, chief executive, and Richard Martin, finance director, have between them bought 200,000 shares at prices ranging from 113p to 115p. It takes their total holding to 838,184, or less than 1 per cent.

Speculative buying lifted **Trio Holdings** 1½p to 10½p. Hopes are high that Nittan Capital will make a full bid for the business after acquiring The Regent Pacific Group's near 30 per cent stake. **Hill Hire** rose 13p to 141p after a round of presentations for fund managers.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Shorter-dated issues bounced back after last week's sell-off as hopes grew that the MPC will today sanction another cut in rates.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt rose 9p to £116.23 as 29,000 contracts were completed. Among conventional issues, Treasury 7 per cent 2002 put on 18p at £106.47, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2021 finished 6p cheaper at £145.48.

☐ **NEW YORK:** US shares shot higher in the wake of the Hewlett-Packard demerger announcement. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 85.57 points to 9,410.35.



Bracing: Richard Harvey, left and Mike Biggs, finance director, saw shares of Norwich Union rise 5p to 451¼p

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

FTSE All-share index (rebased) — FTSE 350 Construction index — 1,700 / 1,600 / 1,500 / 1,400 / 1,300 / 1,200 / 1,100 / 1,000 / 900 — Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar — Source: Datastream

THE housebuilders have had to contend with a touch of subsidence in recent months.

The sector has underperformed the market by as much as 30 per cent with the buyers holding off until there is clear evidence of a pick-up in fortunes for the housing market.

Hopes are high that the long-awaited recovery may soon be under way. There was evidence of support yesterday as Barratt Developments raced up 10½p to 273½p, Beazer Group 13p to 186½p, Berkeley Group 7½p to 572½p, Redrow Group 5¼p to 178½p, Wilson Bowden 40p to 623½p, and George Wimpey 8½p to 142½p.

Brokers say the five cuts in interest rates have helped to underpin sentiment and another cut today would provide a further welcome boost.

Next week's Budget may also offer the housebuilders hope. Brokers know the sector has been oversold but still need some convincing to start buying.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones ... 9410.35 (+85.57)
S&P Composite ... 1245.96 (+9.80)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average ... 13921.06 (-300.69)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng ... 9913.58 (-106.88)

Amsterdam:
AEX Index ... 535.09 (-1.22)

Sydney:
AO ... 2892.8 (-18.3)

Frankfurt:
DAX ... 4804.02 (+19.71)

Singapore:
Straits ... 1418.61 (-4.24)

Brussels:
BEL20 ... 3304.33 (+4.30)

Paris:
CAC-40 ... 4048.63 (+16.58)

Zurich:
SKA Gen ... 1339.90 (-2.20)

London:
FT 30 ... 3714.3 (+10.0)
FTSE 100 ... 6061.3 (+0.4)
FTSE 250 ... 5277.3 (+18.9)
FTSE 350 ... 2880.4 (+1.8)
FTSE Eurotop 100 ... 2775.95 (+5.29)
FTSE All-Share ... 2785.55 (+1.49)
FTSE Non Financials ... 2830.92 (-5.58)
FTSE Fixed Interest ... 154.31 (-0.14)
FTSE Govt Secs ... 112.97 (+0.07)
Bargains ... 76121
SEAQ Volume ... 966.4m
US$ ... 1.6158 (+0.0083)
Euro ... 0.6764 (-0.0037)
£:SDR ... 1.1745
Exchange Index ... 102.2 (+0.6)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
RPI ... 163.4 Jan (2.4%) Jan 1987 = 100
RPIX ... 161.8 Jan (2.6%) Jan 1987 = 100

RECENT ISSUES

Acorn Income Fund	101½	..
Close Bros Dev VCT	100	..
Enhanced Zero Trust	100½	+ ¼
Gander Properties	7¼	..
Jupiter En Zero Dv Pf	107½	...
Jupiter Enhanced Inc	98½	.
Luminar Warrants	335	− 25
NBA Quantum	109½	...
South African Breweries	439	− 8

RIGHTS ISSUES

Brancote n/p (10)	1½	...
Peptide Thera n/p (78)	21	− ½

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Petra Diamonds	81½	+ 21½	+ 35.8
Trio Hldgs	10¾	+ 1½	+ 16.2
GEI Int	44½	+ 6	+ 15.5
Telspec	132½	+ 17½	+ 15.2
Biocomps Intl	81	+ 10½	+ 14.8
Brandon Hire	99½	+ 11	+ 12.4
Estates Agency	500	+ 50	+ 11.1
Orbis	32	+ 3	+ [illegible]
Dialog	77½	+ 7	+ 9.9
Albion	72½	+ 6½	+ 9.8
Cheltam Gp	67½	+ 6	+ 9.7
Jermyn	325	+ 28½	+ 9.6
Close Bros	690½	+ 58	+ 9.1
Brooks Service	84½	+ 7	+ 9.0
Cityview	25½	+ 2	+ 8.6
Azlan	63½	+ 5	+ 8.5
Swallowfield	44½	+ 3½	+ 8.5
Jurys Hotel	523¾	+ 40½	+ 8.3
Randfontein	123	+ 9	+ 7.8
EFM	276½	+ 20	+ 7.7
Quadrant Grp	42½	+ 3	+ 7.5
Jasmin	107½	+ 7½	+ 7.5
Bezzer	186½	+ 13	+ 7.4

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Locker	14½	− 2¼	− 13.4
Water Hall	15½	− 2	− 11.4
Rentokil Ini	400¾	− 48	− 10.6
BPP	460	− 55	− 10.6
Sherwood Group	25½	− 3	− 10.5
RJB	62½	− 7	− 10.0
Fairview Hldgs	91	− 9	− 9.0
Sinclair Mont	134½	− 13	− 8.8
Weir	242½	− 22½	− 8.4
BCO Technologies	58½	− 5	− 7.8
Harvey Nash	357½	− 30	− 7.7
Zergo	707½	− 55	− 7.2
Shield Diag	465	− 35	− 7.0

TEMPUS

Initial concerns

IT IS EASY to blame Rentokil Initial's non-achievement of 20 per cent growth for the walloping 10.7 per cent hole cut into the value of the company's share price yesterday. It is equally easy to dismiss the reaction as unjustified since if you ignore the adverse effects of currency translation Rentokil did meet the targets. Even after currencies the growth in profits and earnings per share was an undeniably impressive 18 per cent.

Moreover yesterday's disappointment, such as it was, should have come as no surprise. Ample warning was given when interim results, posted last August, failed to meet the benchmarks. Between August and the close of play on Monday Rentokil shares continued to impress, gaining more than 100p and outperforming the market average by 15 per cent.

But in truth the stock price collapse finds base in more serious worries. Yesterday's results showed precious little turnover growth and if Rentokil is to maintain its sparkling growth record it needs help from the top line. The easy pickings from acquisitions, it seems, are becoming harder to find.

Also upsetting was the big rise in working capital requirements. Rentokil spent an extra £50 million here, and the company was less than convincing in its explanation of why these costs rose. It dents Rentokil's reputation for rigorous operational control. Questions can also be raised about what would happen if Sir Clive Thompson, Rentokil's evangelical chief excecutive, was lured away from the group. Rentokil's wonderful accomplishments over the past 20 years are also Sir Clive's personal achievement.

The best is behind Rentokil. Reduce.

Norwich Union

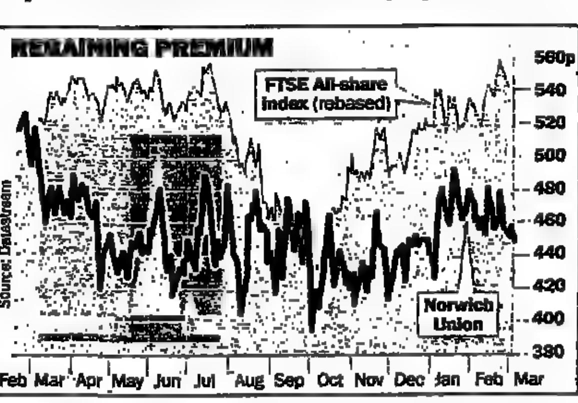
SINCE flotation in 1997 Norwich Union shares have given plenty to smile about. But the bulk of the share price performance came in the early months. As the chart shows, the stock has disappointed more recently. In absolute terms the shares retained their value, but relative to the market average NU has underperformed by about 15 per cent over the past 12 months.

However, this could be about to change. In 1998 much of the attention in the insurance sector focused on the life and pensions specialists. Legal & General stock became popular thanks to the domination of life over general insurance. For similar reasons the NU acquisition at the end of last year of London & Edinburgh, a general insurer, was derided by many.

Now the talk is of a revival in general insurance premium rates, and composites like NU are again finding favour.

This may seem strange. The biggest players are reporting halved general insurance profits for 1998 as severe weather brought mounting claims. Yet the signals are that the worst is over. The pain of falling profits, hopefully, will stiffen the determination to make increases in household and motor insurance premiums stick. NU shares rose yesterday alongside fellow composites CGU and Royal & SunAlliance.

CGU has greater exposure to general insurance, and is therefore better placed to enjoy a rerating. But NU can be expected to bask in some of the new glory. Hold.



Gallaher

DETEST the weed as much as you like, but for an investment, it is difficult to ignore the reliability of tobacco. Gallaher Group, which lists Benson & Hedges and Silk Cut among its brands, served up another reminder of these attractions yesterday with annual profit figures.

The headline numbers declined, sure enough. But behind the 5.5 per cent drop in pre-tax profits and the sharp rise in bootlegging are numbers that should lure even the more cautious investors.

Gallaher is trading on a prospective earnings multiple of 13, representing a 35 per cent discount to the market wide price/earnings ratio. It also produces a dividend yield of nearly 6 per cent, not far off double the average.

Fears about Gallaher's exposure to potentially costly litigation are justified, although they should not be overdone — particularly in light of last week's court ruling, which dismissed the claims of 46 out of 53 plaintiffs. Five of the remaining claims could be time-barred."

Some uncertainty is also generated by the rapid rise in bootlegging, which Gallaher believes is now supplying 8 per cent of the UK cigarette market and could well go higher.

But these negatives should not overshadow the fundamental financials, even after remembering that the tobacco industry will always trade at a discount to the market.

Buy.

M&C Hotels

MILLENNIUM & Copthorne Hotels is a class act and despite the travails of the sector last year, its quality has shone throughout its three-year quoted life.

Despite some softening in the UK, it is still squeezing more profit out of its hotels than almost anybody else. Yet while Ladbroke is buying Stakis at a multiple of 14 times EBITDA, M&C is currently valued at just ten times EBITDA. This despite having a higher-quality portfolio with an international spread.

There are moves afoot to improve its food and beverage offering by introducing some fashionable Far Eastern concepts, while Granada has been brought in to run its health and fitness facilities. One of Millennium's few problems is the brand, which has little customer recognition. M&C know this, and action is being taken.

Expansion projects at three of its biggest hotels should ensure healthy earnings growth this year. Acquisitions should drive momentum but even if Mr Kwek, the controlling shareholder, does not sanction purhases, he may ultimately sell his stake to one of the many prospective bidders who approach him on an almost weekly basis. Buy.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

COMMODITIES

LIFFE — COCOA

Mar	868-[illegible]	May	unq
May	862-861	Jul	
Jul	882-880	Sep	
Sep	903-901	Dec	
Dec	927-925		

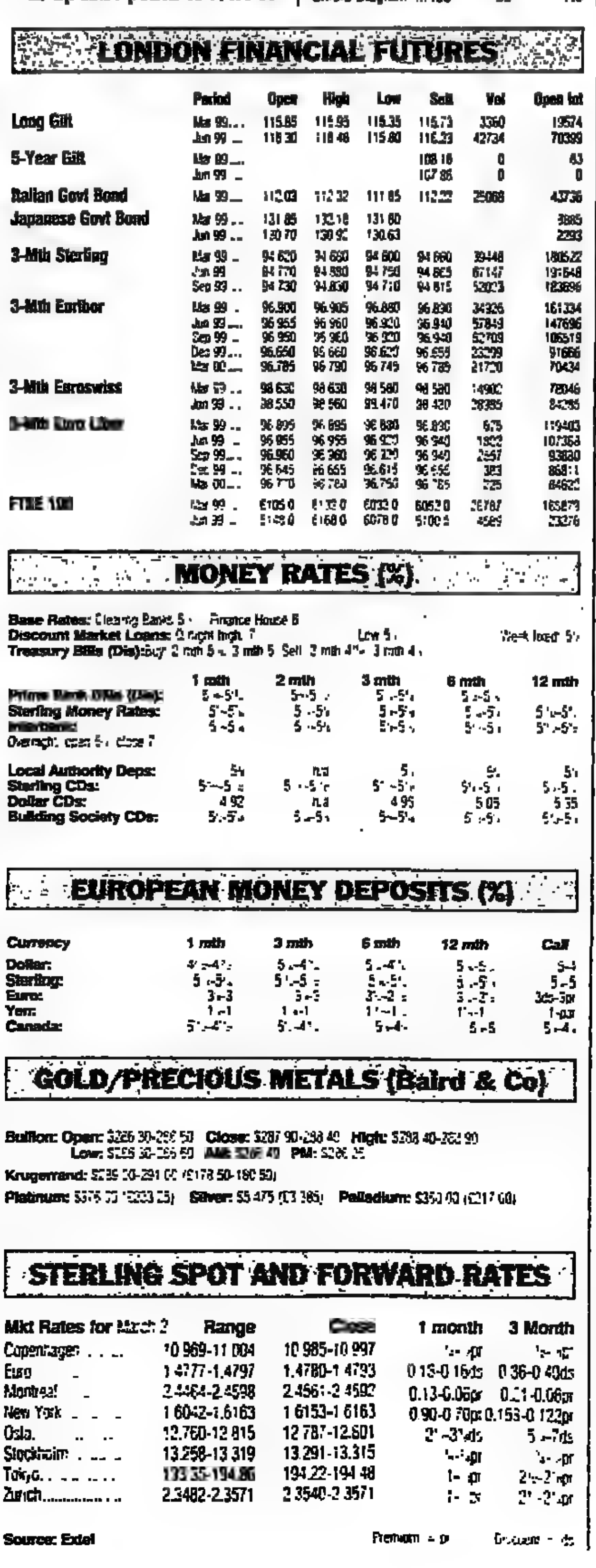
ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm) CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	10.35	+0.05
Brent 15 day (Apr)	10.90	−0.10
Brent 15 day (May)	11.05	+0.10
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	12.45	+0.15
W Texas Intermediate (May)	12.60	+0.15

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	72.00	Mar	73.75
May	74.25	May	73.75
Jul	75.75	Sep	73.50
Sep	74.50	Nov	76.00
Nov	76.50	Jan	78.00

LIFFE OPTIONS



LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Mar 99	115.85	115.95	115.35	115.73	3360	19574
	Jun 99	116.30	116.48	115.80	116.23	42734	70399
5-Year Gilt	Mar 99				108.16	0	43
	Jun 99				107.86	0	0
Italian Govt Bond	Mar 99	112.03	112.32	111.85	112.22	25068	43736
Japanese Govt Bond	Mar 99	131.85	132.18	131.60			3885
	Jun 99	130.70	130.92	130.63			2293
3-Mth Sterling	Mar 99	94.620	94.650	94.600	94.660	39448	180522
	Jun 99	94.770	94.880	94.750	94.865	67147	191648
	Sep 99	94.730	94.830	94.710	94.815	53023	123696
3-Mth Euribor	Mar 99	96.900	96.905	96.880	96.830	34326	161334
	Jun 99	96.955	96.960	96.920	96.940	57849	147696
	Sep 99	96.950	96.960	96.920	96.940	52709	106519
	Dec 99	96.650	96.660	96.620	96.659	23299	91666
	Mar 00	96.785	96.790	96.745	96.785	21720	70434
3-Mth Euroswiss	Mar 99	98.630	98.630	98.580	98.580	14902	78046
	Jun 99	98.550	98.560	98.470	98.420	28395	84295
3-Mth Euro Libor	Mar 99	96.895	96.895	96.880	96.830	675	119403
	Jun 99	96.955	96.955	96.920	96.940	1922	107368
	Sep 99	96.960	96.960	96.920	96.940	2567	93830
	Dec 99	96.645	96.665	96.615	96.656	383	86811
	Mar 00	96.770	96.780	96.750	96.765	225	84622
FTSE 100	Mar 99	6105.0	6130.0	6032.0	6062.0	26767	165879
	Jun 99	6149.0	6168.0	6078.0	6100.5	4589	23276

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 5½ Finance House 6
Discount Market Loans: O'night high: 7 Low 5½ Week fixed: 5½
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5¼; 3 mth 5 Sell: 2 mth 4⁷⁄₈; 3 mth 4¾

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Overnight: open 5½ close 7					
Local Authority Deps:	5½	n/a	5½	5¼	5½
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	4.92	n/a	4.95	5.05	5.35
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
Sterling:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-5
Euro:	3-3	3-3	[illegible]	[illegible]	3ds-5pr
Yen:	1-1	1-1	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par
Canada:	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4	5-5	5-4

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open: $286.30-286.50 **Close:** $287.90-288.40 **High:** $288.40-288.90
Low: $286.30-286.50 **AM:** $286.40 **PM:** $286.25

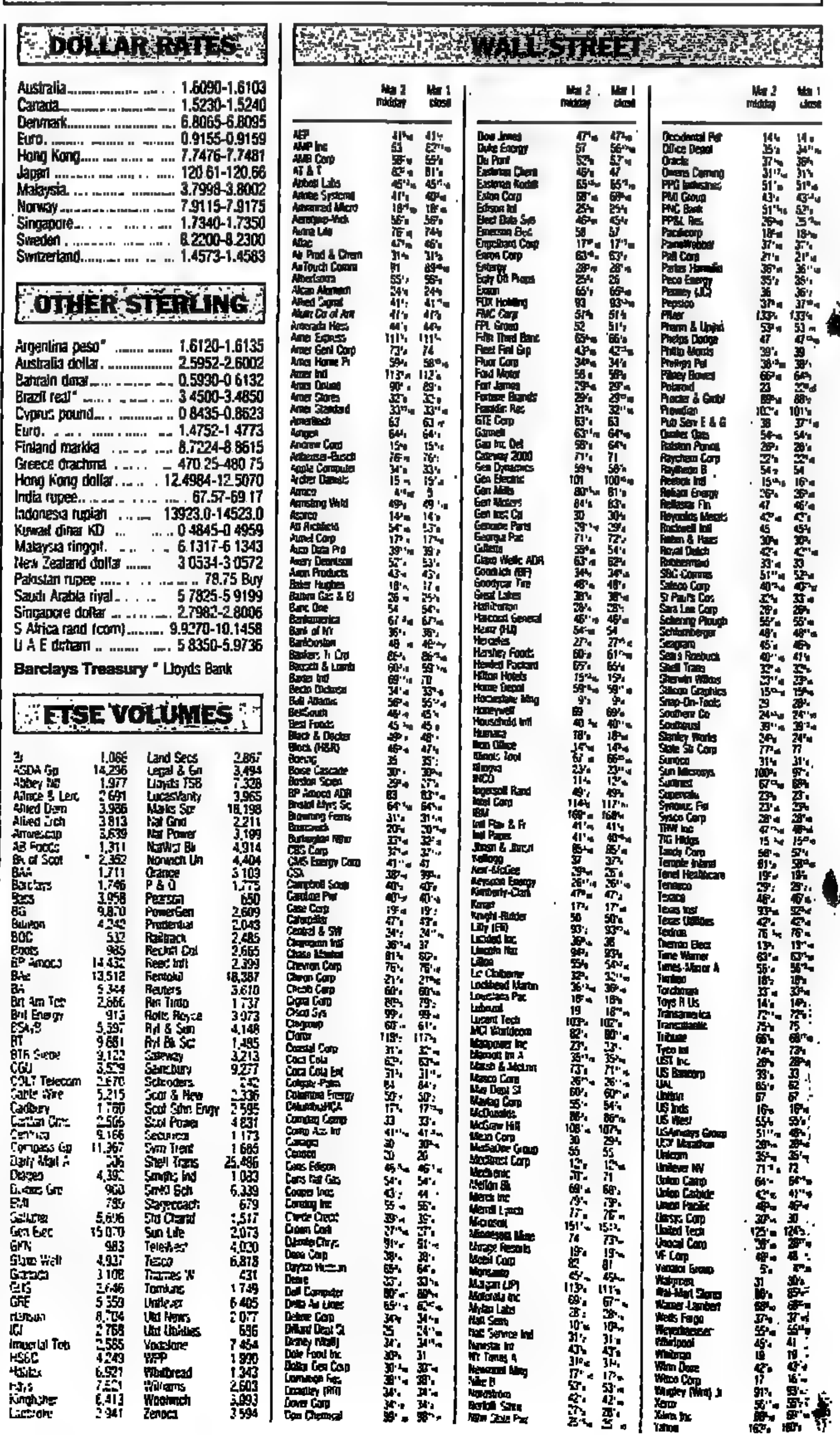
Krugerrand: $289.00-291.00 (£178.50-180.50)

Platinum: $375.75 (£233.25) **Silver:** $5.475 (£3.385) **Palladium:** $350.00 (£217.00)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for March 2	Range	Close	1 month	3 Month
Copenhagen	10.969-11.004	10.985-10.997	[illegible]	[illegible]
Euro	1.4777-1.4797	1.4780-1.4793	0.13-0.16ds	0.36-0.40ds
Montreal	2.4464-2.4598	2.4561-2.4592	0.13-0.06pr	0.21-0.06pr
New York	1.6042-1.6163	1.6153-1.6163	0.90-0.70pr	0.153-0.122pr
Oslo	12.760-12.815	12.787-12.801	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Stockholm	13.258-13.319	13.291-13.315	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Tokyo	193.35-194.86	194.22-194.48	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Zurich	2.3482-2.3571	2.3540-2.3571	[illegible]	[illegible]pr

Source: Extel Premium = pr Discount = ds



DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.6090-1.6103
Canada	1.5230-1.5240
Denmark	6.8065-6.8095
Euro	0.9155-0.9159
Hong Kong	7.7476-7.7481
Japan	120.61-120.66
Malaysia	3.7998-3.8002
Norway	7.9115-7.9175
Singapore	1.7340-1.7350
Sweden	8.2200-8.2300
Switzerland	1.4573-1.4583

OTHER STERLING

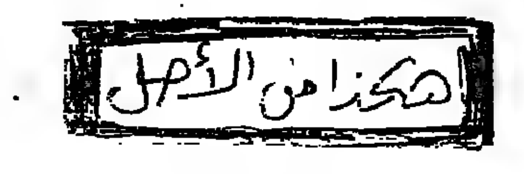
Argentina peso*	1.6120-1.6135
Australia dollar	2.5952-2.6002
Bahrain dinar	0.5930-0.6132
Brazil real*	3.4500-3.4850
Cyprus pound	0.8435-0.8623
Euro	1.4752-1.4773
Finland markka	8.7224-8.8615
Greece drachma	470.25-480.75
Hong Kong dollar	12.4984-12.5070
India rupee	67.57-69.17
Indonesia rupiah	13923.0-14523.0
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4845-0.4959
Malaysia ringgit	6.1317-6.1343
New Zealand dollar	3.0534-3.0572
Pakistan rupee	78.75 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.7825-5.9199
Singapore dollar	2.7982-2.8006
S Africa rand (com)	9.9270-10.1458
U A E dirham	5.8350-5.9736

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	1,066	Land Secs	2,867
ASDA Gp	14,296	Legal & Gn	3,494
Abbey Ntl	1,977	Lloyds TSB	7,328
Allnce & Leic	2,691	LucasVarity	3,965
Allied Dom	3,986	Marks Spr	18,198
Allied Zurich	3,813	Nat Grid	2,211
Amvescap	3,639	Nat Power	3,199
AB Foods	1,311	NatWst Bk	4,914
Bk of Scot	2,352	Norwich Un	4,404
BAA	1,711	Orange	3,109
Barclays	1,746	P & O	1,775
Bass	3,958	Pearson	650
BG	9,870	PowerGen	2,609
Billiton	4,242	Prudential	2,043
BOC	532	Railtrack	2,485

WALL STREET



We're no nearer to truth on earnings

If profit-related bonuses are not taken out, the numbers are meaningless, writes Robin Marris

No one was more surprised than I when, after I wrote a polemic on the use and abuse of the earnings statistics in these columns at the end of last July, there was a blow-up about the actual data. The official series was withdrawn and an inquiry was instituted.

Yesterday the new figures were presented by Patricia Hewitt, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, supported by Mervyn King, the Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, Sir Andrew Turnbull, Permanent Secretary of the Treasury, the Director of the Office of National Statistics. Two distinguished academics produced impressive reports on What Went Wrong and how to put it right.

The two reports, one by Professor Chambers of Southampton University and the other by Martin Wheale, Director of the National Institute for Economic Research, are in my opinion technical classics. But, oh, what a tangled web the establishment weaves when it wants us to be confused.

Why are the earnings statistics so important? There are two closely linked but actually distinct reasons. If earnings are growing at, say 5 per cent per annum, productivity is growing at, say, 2 per cent, and profit margins happen to be constant, forecast inflation can only be 3 per cent.

For the Monetary Policy Committee, given its inflation target of 2.5 per cent, this would be bad news: members must raise the interest rate. But suppose earnings are actually growing one point more slowly, then forecast inflation is below the target, and, according to the rules laid down by Gordon Brown as now interpreted by the MPC, interest rates should be reduced. In other words, a very small difference in the statistical interpretation has, in theory, a very large effect on policy.

The second reason is connected with the fact that the MPC appears to believe in the operational validity of the so-called Natural Rate of Unemployment. This is a proxy for a state in the labour market where the feedback of prices on wages produces not necessarily a high rate of inflation but definitely an accelerating rate of inflation.

It is a mathematically impeccable proposition but for theoretical and practical reasons it has proved impossible to measure the actual unemployment rate which, at any one time, would tip the economy into actually accelerating inflation. Consequently, the only way to forecast whether inflation is accelerating or decelerating is to try and estimate whether current earnings are accelerating. Early this year the MPC clearly implied it believed both these factors were at work.

So there were two questions dominating policy in this country in the early spring of 1998. Were earnings rising unhealthily fast? Were they accelerating? Yesterday Mervyn King said the new and old figures gave much the same impression on that topic and that his committee had never placed great emphasis on the earnings figures in their policy decisions at that time.

So where do we stand *now*? The answer is that on a quite crucial point the new reports still lead to misleading interpretations. Let me repeat the problem. If profit-related bonuses are not taken out, the numbers are worse than meaningless.

As a result of a brilliant investigation by Martin Dicks, of Lehman Bros (*Lehman Bros Economic Research Report, September 3, 1998*), we now know that the dominating factor in bonus payments towards the end of any financial year is the level of profits earned in the previous financial year. The general effect is an erratic blip in the total earnings series, mostly occurring in March, a smaller amount in December and July.

There are two implications of Martin Dicks's discoveries. First, that no simply "univariate" method of deseasonalisation (ie one which, for example, does not take account of the actual movements of profits) can cope with the resulting problem. Secondly, nor does presenting the data on a year-on-year basis do any better.

The only thing to do is to remove the bonuses directly. In the past the Office of National Statistics has not published a "purged" series, but by last summer they were giving useful information on which one could make estimates. This I did in my July article. From the result I concluded that "regular" non-bonus earnings were not accelerating.

So what has been done about bonuses in the Turnbull Report? Answer: relegated to page 83, given three lines and a small table. The new purged figures consistently show an absolute rate of earnings inflation just over half a point lower than the old figures. I cannot understand how Mervyn King could argue that this is not significant.

On the question of acceleration in early 1998, the new figures actually give more support to the MPC than the old. Should a reasonable person looking at either the new or the old bonus-purged series, have reasonably feared that earnings were set to rise above the 5 per cent mark? But most people were not looking at a purged series, because none, other than mine, at that time existed.

The new unpurged series surely gives the answer "yes". That is economically deeply misleading because it is very questionable whether bonuses based on profits enter directly into labour costs at all.

After May 1998 the purged series significantly decelerates and the unpurged series exaggerates this result. The MPC bases its actions on forecasts. Did they forecast the deceleration? It would be nice for them to be able to reply that the deceleration which actually occurred was due to their hawkish rates policy. But the timing is rather close, is it not?

□ *Robin Marris is emeritus professor of economics at Birkbeck College, University of London*

And lo, God and Mammon created born-again banking

When a Scottish bank meets a US evangelist, the potential is huge, writes Caroline Merrell

God may have had a hand in the fortuitous meeting between Pat Robertson, the American television evangelist, and William Hendry, the head of Bank of Scotland's American division, but both parties can spot the financial potential of marrying Mammon to a huge market bonded by religion.

Their introduction in New York last year spawned plans for the New Foundation Bank, a joint venture between the Scottish bank and Robertson Financial Services, a division of the former presidential candidate's multi-billion dollar business empire.

The new bank is expected to get US regulatory approval in five to six months' time. It will be chaired by Mr Robertson but will be majority-owned by Bank of Scotland.

In structure, the link-up will resemble the joint initiative between Bank of Scotland and Sainsbury's. However, whereas Sainsbury's Bank has access to the supermarket's 20 million customers, the New Foundation Bank's target audience will be the 55 million viewers of Mr Robertson's Christian Broadcasting Network.

As one analyst put it: "The potential is huge." Sainsbury's Bank now has one million customers, £1.7 billion on deposit, and £700 million committed to personal loans, mortgages and cards. The bank is expected to move into profit next year, after start-up losses totalling £30 million.

Peter Burt, Bank of Scotland's chief executive, is acutely aware of the problems of launching a direct banking operation in the US, where the market for telephone banking is less developed than in the UK. "It would be my nightmare to get five million customers in the first week," he said.

He pointed to the problems faced by Egg, Prudential's direct banking subsidiary. Its launch, backed by a high-profile TV ad campaign, was so successful that applicants had to wait for up to three weeks for the mailing pack.

Mr Burt said: "We are going to tread very carefully, with a phased, low-key entry into the market. We want to see how big the inflow is going to be."

Ideally, he wants the start-up costs of the new bank to reach around $30 million in the first year. "Spending £100 million on launching the new bank would be unacceptable to Bank of Scotland's shareholders," he said.

Initially, the new bank will offer deposit accounts. Eventually, it will add credit cards and mortgages, both of which will be more profitable.

Rob Down, banking analyst at ABN Amro, said the downside of the joint venture was limited, whereas the potential was huge. "If they get five million customers over four years, then they are effectively doubling their customer base. The TV network probably has around 15 to 20 million regular viewers." He pointed out that many of these viewers would be interested in taking out a credit card, for example, where each transaction resulted in a payment to charity.

In the UK, the last 18 months have seen the launch of four new direct banking operations, on top of the telephone banking services offered by First Direct, Lloyds TSB, Direct Line, Natwest, Sainsbury's and Tesco.

Despite entering what appears to be a saturated market, the four new ventures from Prudential, Virgin, Standard Life and Scottish Widows have all had some degree of success in attracting customers from the high street banks. By cutting out expensive branch networks, telephone banks can offer better savings rates.

The new entrants have begun to make substantial inroads into the high street banks' customer base. Some existing banks have simply decided not to compete with the new entrants. Abbey National, the former building society, for instance, admitted earlier this month that it could not compete on price. It is hoping to rely on customer inertia to maintain its market share.

Prudential's Egg has had almost unprecedented success in mopping up customer deposits from those dissatisfied with the low interest rates from the traditional players. It now has £3 billion of deposits from 250,000 customers. Standard Life has 200,000 customers with £2.25 billion on deposit.

One analyst, however, pointed out that the impact of direct banking on the traditional banks could well be overegged. He said that many of the new players were losing money on their banking operations. Consumers would simply switch their money away from the new entrants if their rates became less competitive.

The analyst also questioned whether customers would be keen to buy other, more profitable products from the new entrants. "I can see why someone would leave their money on deposit with Sainsbury's, but I cannot see many people actually buying a mortgage from their supermarket."

Bank of Scotland may also find that its link with Mr Robertson ruffles a few feathers in the UK. Mr Burt was keen to play down the religious link of the new venture, but customers may take a different view.

One hitherto loyal customer, Alex Catalano, a journalist, said she would be switching her account elsewhere: "I disagree with Mr Robertson's philosophy and religion. I do not want to contribute to his profits. I have been a Bank of Scotland customer for 10 years. I do not want to be part of this particular combination of God and Mammon."



Pat Robertson, pictured right with presidential candidate Bob Dole, could bring 55 million TV viewers to the new bank

THE Reverend Pat Robertson could be described as a media pioneer, educator, philanthropist and religious broadcaster. However, this is only a small part of the unique role he plays in US culture and politics. After an unsuccessful bid to be elected as the Republican Party's presidential candidate in 1988, he carved out a niche as political commentator from his weekly televisual pulpit on the 700 Club programme, where he preaches Christian fundamentalism and chastises President Clinton.

For 20 years Mr Robertson has been one of the strongest voices of ultra-conservatism in America, a position he has expanded and fortified as chairman of the Christian Coalition, as much a business as it is a political lobby group.

Mr Robertson has a wide array of business interests, controlled and sometimes headed by family members. The Robertsons own a refinery in California and companies in Africa and China. Most recently Mr Robertson was appointed to the board of Laura Ashley in the UK as a non-executive director. He also controlled International Family Entertainment, a cable television company he founded that was sold to The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, for $1.7 billion (£1 billion).

His personal fortune has allowed Mr Robertson to remain a fixture in US politics far beyond the normal shelf-life of an unelected campaigner. His biggest fight recently has been over the sexual sins of the President.

Mr Robertson was one of the first mainstream commentators calling for impeachment. He was forced to recant his view when he realised that impeaching the President could hurt the Republican cause. Mr Robertson himself is not above all types of "moral degeneracy". Last year, the Christian Broadcasting Network agreed to make a "substantial payment" to the Internal Revenue Service. The taxman had conducted an investigation into improper political activities during Mr Robertson's presidential bid.

Sony takes the game to higher level

Sony, the Japanese entertainment group, yesterday threw down the gauntlet to the likes of Intel and Microsoft in the battle over who will deliver the next generation of computerised entertainment.

The group announced it was launching a new games console, provisionally titled PlayStation II, which will go on sale in Japan within a year and in the US and Europe before Christmas 2000. It is a follow-up to PlayStation, the world's most successful consumer electronic product, which has recently sold its 50 millionth unit. Including games, in the region of £20 billion has been spent on the product.

Though initially it will be a direct challenge to Sega's Dreamcast, which has sold more than 500,000 units since it was launched in Japan last autumn, Sony yesterday signalled that it was setting its sights much higher with the new PlayStation.

"The next generation of PlayStation should be a challenge to Intel and Microsoft," said Nobuyuki Idei, the president of Sony. "PlayStation can be a catalyst for creating a new entertainment business."

Sony is already one of the most integrated entertainment companies in the world, owning a film studio and a music company as well as making televisions, videos, hi-fis, computer games and games machines.

Sony's high hopes for the system are largely because of its use of the Emotion Engine computer processor, developed by Sony and Toshiba, the Japanese technology group, at a cost of about Y20 billion (£100 million).

The Emotion Engine is three times more powerful than the Pentium III, the microprocessor launched recently by Intel. It should enable the PlayStation to have cinema-quality computer graphics.

The new system will also feature the latest DVD technology — which is starting to replace CD-Rom and video for storing information and showing films in the home — as well as a digital music system and Internet connectivity. Many expect the new PlayStation to become the "box in the corner" system designed to deliver all a household's electronic entertainment needs.

Sony, though, is keen not to oversell it at this stage. Ken Kataragi, executive vice-president of Sony Computer Entertainment, said that, while you could play movies or music on the new PlayStation, he did not expect it to replace existing systems. The aim was to develop a new type of entertainment in the home, not to replace existing products.

The link with Toshiba is also seen as significant, as it has experience in home and laptop computers, an area where Sony does not operate at the moment.

The exact launch date for the new PlayStation depends on how fast games can be developed for it. Sony released the detailed technical specifications to games makers only yesterday and, on average, it takes a year to develop a computer game.

JASON NISSÉ
in Tokyo

Fed end

ALAN GREENSPAN may be the world's most highly regarded central banker, but in America bets are already being placed on the identity of his most likely successor.

Greenspan's third term as Federal Reserve chairman runs out in June 2000, weeks before the next US Presidential elections. That battle is likely to be fought between Al Gore, the current Vice-President, and George Bush Jr, the Governor of Texas.

Both men are said to be unsympathetic towards Greenspan, who has presided over an unprecedented period of employment growth and low inflation since 1987. Gore did not take kindly to Greenspan's contemptuous dismissal of President Clinton's proposal to plough social security funds into the stock market. Bush Jr is said to share his father's grudge against Greenspan over the 1991 mini-recession which contributed to President Bush being voted out of office.

Should Gore be elected, current administration officials like Robert Rubin, the Treasury Secretary, and Lawrence Summers, his deputy, may be frontrunners. The most highly regarded internal Fed candidate, is William McDonough, the New York Fed head who supervised the successful bail-out of Long Term Capital Management last year. Mr Bush Jr is said to favour Lawrence Lindsey, a former Fed governor.

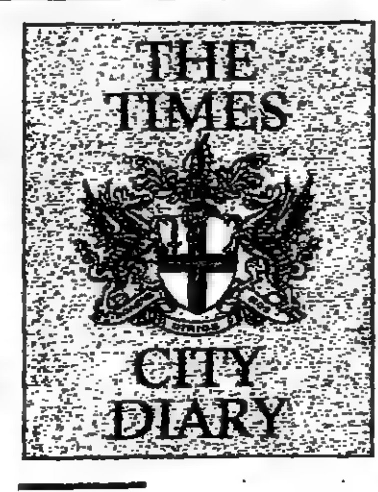


"More champagne?"

SOME attitudes may be changing in South Africa, but it seems that others are proving a little more ensconced.

Brian Gilberston, chairman of Billiton, the South African mining group, gave us a cultural insight when announcing that his company had spent $1.5 billion (£937 million) on acquisitions in six months.

"Even my wife doesn't spend at that rate," Mr Gilbertson quipped in an attempt to illustrate his point.



Times table

THERE is unease in the genteel world of antiques. A tale reaches me from the Cotswolds about an estate agent who was called to appraise and sell a cottage while a fine art auctioneer sold its contents.

The cottage was valued at about £80,000 and sold for £85,000. The contents included an 18th century table with an estimated value of up to £6,000. After much viewing and deliberating by dealers it sold to the London trade for £85,000, the same price as the cottage.

The estate agency fee for the sale of the property was about £2,000. The sale of the table made a profit of £26,000 for the auctioneer.

One further thought. Until the hammer fell, had the table been lost or stolen, the beneficiaries would have received only £5,000 in compensation. Yet the insurance fee they paid after the auction was £850 plus VAT, based on the £85,000 hammer price.

Sell program

KEVIN LOMAX, head anorak at Misys, the software group, has spent several months trying to convince the City that shares in his company are worth buying. He even flew a gaggle of senior IT analysts out to the company's offices in the US last month to convince them that its Medic division — which recently announced a stunning strategic U-turn — was not in trouble.

The charm offensive worked: a note from Albert E Sharp landed on my desk yesterday morning telling me that "the US visit provided reassurance" and that Misys was "a core sector hold".

Strange, then, that Lomax and his wife decided yesterday to sell nearly £1.3 million of shares in Misys (leaving our Kev with a stake worth a mere £55 million). "He's buying a house in London," a friend of the multimillionaire tells me. "It has nothing to do with his confidence in the company."

No smoke . . .

TO GALLAHERS for the tobacco company's annual financial results briefing, where City hacks tut-tutted as chairman Peter Wilson lit up midway through his presentation, and enjoyed not one, but two cigarettes. Yet when invited to help themselves to the impressive product display, assembled guests made light work of the cartons of Bensons & Hedges and Silk Cuts. Purely for the purposes of research, you understand.

PETER BURT, Bank of Scotland chief executive, was alert to the sensitivities of linking up with the often controversial Pat Robertson. He was keen to emphasis Mr Robertson's Scottish ancestors, claiming that Mr Robertson was a charismatic, charming man. "He is not in the mould of John Knox" — a preacher better known for his views on hell and damnation.


Lomax: said "buy", but sold

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7888

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	145.23	154.77	-0.41	
-do- NAV to Jun 19	140.39	140.39		
UK Equity Safeguard	116.07	124.14	+0.11	2.02
-do- NAV to Mar 19	110.98	110.98		
US Eq Safeguard	96.57	102.61	-1.48	
Cash	953.31	956.08		6.25
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	434.40	462.13	-4.27	1.80
UK Small Cos	91.26	97.60	0.07	0.50
FTSE 250 Index	107.16	114.61	-0.06	1.69
Geared UK Index	#24.133	#25.475	-0.50	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	87.55	90.49	-0.33	6.66
Monthly Inc	44.04	47.10†	-0.05	7.98
International Funds				
American Gen	376.93	398.70	-2.78	0.17
American Strat	175.26	187.12	-0.93	
JG US Index	#29.337	#30.908	-0.02	1.60
European Gen	433.06	458.00	-10.41	
European Strat	205.14	219.44	-4.80	
Japan Gen	102.64	108.61	-3.53	
Asia Pacific	62.34	66.50	-0.57	1.09
Pacific Strat	85.37	91.30	-1.05	
Greater China	143.35	153.31	-1.79	
Latin America	56.80	60.73	-0.91	
Int Growth	193.63	206.78	-2.47	0.11
Balanced Eurotop	185.32	191.81		2.18
Global Strategy	47.42	50.71	-0.53	

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01203 553 231

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AXA Equity & Law Unit Trst				
Balanced Acc	83.48	88.81	-1.01	1.71
Balanced Inc	74.99	79.78	-0.92	1.71
[illegible]	133.10	141.60	-1.80	2.25
Brit Frontls Acc	170.00	180.90	-1.80	3.93
Brit Frontls Inc	105.40	112.20	-1.10	3.93
Europe	557.50	593.50	-12.40	0.30
General Acc	984.30	1047.00	-3.00	2.43
General Inc	787.80	838.10	-2.30	2.43
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	267.70	282.70	-0.10	5.27
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	103.30	109.80	-0.10	5.27
Global Opps	134.80	143.40	-1.00	0.26
Higher Inc Acc #	1238.00	1317.00	-14.00	4.24
Higher Inc Inc #	612.40	651.50	-7.00	4.24
Japan Acc	33.46	35.60	-0.94	
Nth America	543.90	578.90	-2.30	
Pac Basin Acc	274.30	291.80	-3.00	0.80
UK Growth Acc	674.90	713.00	-8.90	2.08
UK Growth Inc	418.10	444.60	-5.50	2.08
AXA Sun Life Trusts				
Discretionary	67.83	72.16	-0.34	
Extra Inc Inc #	42.53	44.97†	-0.16	5.56
High Yld Inc	123.50	131.40†	-0.50	7.48
Inc & Gth Inc	120.70	128.10	-0.40	2.19
Pacific Grth Port	33.03	35.14	-0.38	0.77
UK Income Inc	85.03	90.45†	-0.30	2.13
UK Smaller Cos I	101.70		-0.20	

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gilts & Fixed Int	156.80	166.50†	-0.80	6.35
High Inc Equity	243.50	260.40	-2.10	3.73
Worldwide Bond	284.90	302.10	-4.00	3.81
American Growth	668.20	713.10	-2.90	0.19
Asian Pacific	197.20	210.90	-0.20	0.59
Assets & Earnings	374.10	400.10	-3.60	1.86
[illegible] Capital Acc	295.20	315.70	-8.70	0.23
[illegible] Inc	40.75	43.33†	0.35	7.27
General	340.40	362.10†	-4.00	2.74
Global Opps	80.20	85.32	-1.25	0.36
Japan	80.81	86.40	-2.36	
Managed Inc	56.56	60.17†	-0.58	4.24
Mastertrust	202.90	217.00	-2.50	1.35
US Emerging Cos	271.30	290.10	-0.10	
[illegible]	94.66	100.70	-0.30	1.80
[illegible]	162.10	173.40	-2.50	
Dividend & Growth	89.85	95.58	-0.89	3.14
[illegible] Gwth & Inc	83.74	89.39	-0.22	1.95
Latin America	46.39	49.61	+0.25	1.37
Capital Reserve	169.20	169.20	-0.10	5.35

ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0141 275 [illegible]

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
[illegible] UK Growth	133.40	141.90	-0.50	1.25
Equity Income #	169.80	180.60	-0.10	3.47
Extra Income #	335.70	356.50	-0.60	4.18
[illegible] Cos	86.09	91.58†		2.35
International	151.40	161.00†	-1.60	0.90

ABERDEEN PROLIFIC UT MGRS LTD
Enq: 0845 605 666 Dlg: 0800 833 580

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amer Opp Acc	375.40	394.06	+0.79	
Asia Pacific	56.75	60.04	-0.48	
Emg Mkts Inc	41.12	43.51	-0.69	

CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD
01707 822 100

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Can Gen Dist	319.10	338.20†	-2.00	0.99
-do- Income Dist	176.10	186.60	-0.10	2.65
-do- Accum	606.20	642.50	-0.30	2.65
Gilt & Fxd Int	47.38	49.78†	-0.13	3.90
Growth Units	385.20	411.30	-2.50	1.14
Bond	202.30	213.30†	-0.90	5.00
Intl Growth	270.40	287.40	-2.39	0.11
North American	419.00	444.70	-1.60	
Far East	167.50	179.10	-0.30	0.97
UK Smaller Cos	281.00	300.50	+0.40	1.13
European	137.50	148.20	-2.60	0.14
Japanese Growth	29.43	31.18	-0.53	
High Income	307.20	328.30	+0.10	2.68

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American & Gen	369.00	390.30	-1.80	
European Inc	152.20	161.60	-2.90	
Smaller Cos (4-1)	113.00	[illegible]	-3.80	2.07
Growth	756.80	[illegible]	-5.00	1.04
Income & Growth #	595.70	[illegible]	-1.10	4.40
-do- Accum #	987.20	1050.30	-1.90	4.40
Japan & Gen	50.34	53.21†	-1.49	
Hallmark Gwth	1740.00	1813.00	-14.00	0.88
-do- Accum	2214.00	2307.00	-19.00	0.88
Special Sits	174.20	185.40	-1.10	1.05
High Yield	1958.00	[illegible]	-5.00	3.73

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0171 606 0708

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Cazenove Portfolio	126.12	134.06		2.16
American Portfolio	205.07	217.20		0.37
European Portfolio	224.78	239.21		0.27
High Income	59.35	62.69†		5.97
Japanese Portfolio	47.60	50.31†	-0.93	
[illegible] Portfolio	104.51	112.38	-0.23	1.28
UK Equity	126.28	134.67		2.67
UK Equity & Bd	73.14	77.57		4.92
UK Smlr Cos	51.97	55.59		2.07

CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Inv Fd Inc	1063.70	1079.78	-16.49	3.22
Inv Fd Acc	1142.92	1160.20	-17.98	
Fxd [illegible] Sec Inc	174.73	175.43	-0.91	7.30
Fxd [illegible] Sec Acc	204.87	205.69	-1.06	

CGU TRUST MGRS LTD
Brkr/Dlng 0845 6072436 Cust Enq 0845 6072430
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Income Funds				
Euro Inc	251.51	262.02	-0.59	4.15
Long Gilt	59.46	61.89	-0.30	4.32
Monthly Inc Plus	64.02	66.89	-0.20	6.72
-do- Accum	83.10	86.57	-0.27	6.72
Preference Share	64.03	66.70	-0.04	5.85
[illegible] Funds				
High Yield	186.77	194.57	-0.29	5.20
Managed Fund	97.88	101.97	-0.75	2.42
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	48.19	50.20	-0.13	1.26
-do- Accum	58.11	60.54	-0.15	1.26
UK & General	138.96	144.77	-1.01	1.93
-do- Accum	189.23	197.14	-1.38	1.93
UK Growth	279.10	290.76	-1.99	1.21
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	366.16	381.46	-7.30	
Far Eastern Gth	91.35	95.17	-1.23	0.35
Global Bond	75.70	78.86	-0.81	4.86
Japan Growth	82.85	86.31	-2.11	
North Amer Grth	402.13	418.93	-1.78	
Oriental Growth	55.21	57.52	-0.35	1.13
Worldwide Growth	97.26	101.32	-1.10	
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	93.33	93.33	+0.02	5.10
Homemaker Fund	114.54	121.86†	-0.98	1.89

[illegible] UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0171 283 5000

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Cof Equity	1391.00	1414.00†		3.11

COIF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Investment Inc	1050.48	1066.36	-18.07	3.28
Investment Acc	5202.35	5362.19	-92.19	
Fixed Int Inc	143.92	144.50	-1.33	7.20
Fixed Int Acc	314.54	315.80	-2.91	

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 556 8800

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CF Intl Acc	113.25	119.13		7.24
City Fin Fd	44.20	47.74		
Acorn Ethical Id	199.84	212.60		0.34

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Recovery ‡	64.89	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
South E Asia ‡	156.50	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Special Sits ‡	944.40	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	130.55	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 814 2700

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
[illegible] #	180.90	183.30		1.82
[illegible] Pd Inc #	117.10	118.40†	-0.40	6.45
[illegible]	228.30	227.80	-2.20	0.04
General Opps	192.50	194.50		2.88
[illegible] Inc	52.00	52.71	-0.37	1.13
Private Portfolio	710.90	717.80†		1.02

FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT
Dlg 01277 690 380 Admin/Val 01277 690 350

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
[illegible] Smlr Cos	236.60	251.20	-5.30	
[illegible] Income	22.54	23.96†	-0.14	8.08
UK Smlr Cos	32.78	35.06	-0.01	1.86
US Smaller Cos	530.50	564.10†	+1.60	

FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD
Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0845 775511

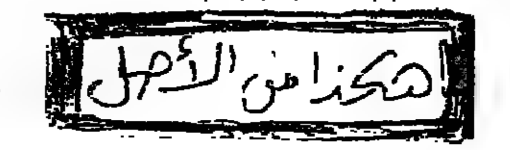
	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Growth	162.40	171.60†	-0.10	
-do- Accum	162.40	171.60†	-0.10	
Amer Smlr Cos	702.80	747.30	-4.20	
-do- Accum	718.10	763.50	-4.30	
Capital Tst	425.90	453.10	-9.60	1.08
-do- Accum	641.20	682.10	-14.40	1.08
Cond Smlr Cos	75.22	80.45	-1.75	
-do- Accum	80.72	86.34	-1.87	
Convertible	160.60	170.90	-0.30	6.24
-do- Accum	392.20	417.20	-1.40	6.24
Emerging Markets	38.35	40.97	-0.23	0.74
-do- Accum	38.91	41.57	-0.45	0.74
[illegible]	240.20	254.70	-4.80	
-do- Accum	255.40	270.70	-5.30	
Extra Income	517.50	544.10†	-2.40	3.48
-do- Accum	878.10	934.10†	-4.70	3.48
Financial	275.60	293.20	-2.10	0.40
-do- Accum	296.70	315.20	-2.30	0.40
Gilt Trust	66.24	70.35	-0.18	5.50
-do- Accum	[illegible]	121.80	-0.30	5.50
Health Fund Inc	248.10	265.30	-1.40	
-do- Accum	248.10	265.30	-1.40	
Income & Growth	298.80	317.90	-0.90	3.88
-do- Accum	514.00	546.80	-1.00	3.88
Intl Growth	545.20	579.60	-6.10	
-do- Accum	605.30	643.50	-6.80	
Japan & Gen	119.40	126.30†	-3.50	
-do- Accum	[illegible]	127.50†	-3.60	
Monthly Inc #	263.70	280.50†	-1.20	4.32
-do- Accum #	286.00	304.30†	-1.30	4.32
Managed Port Inc	146.40	154.10	-1.00	1.52
-do- Accum	[illegible]	171.50	-1.40	1.52
[illegible] Income #	[illegible]	73.73†	-0.33	4.88
-do- Accum #	[illegible]	93.81†	-0.42	4.88
UK Growth	[illegible]	95.62	-0.50	1.20
-do- Accum	100.80	107.20	-0.50	1.20

FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS
Dealing 0870 600 6300 Enq 0870 600 6300

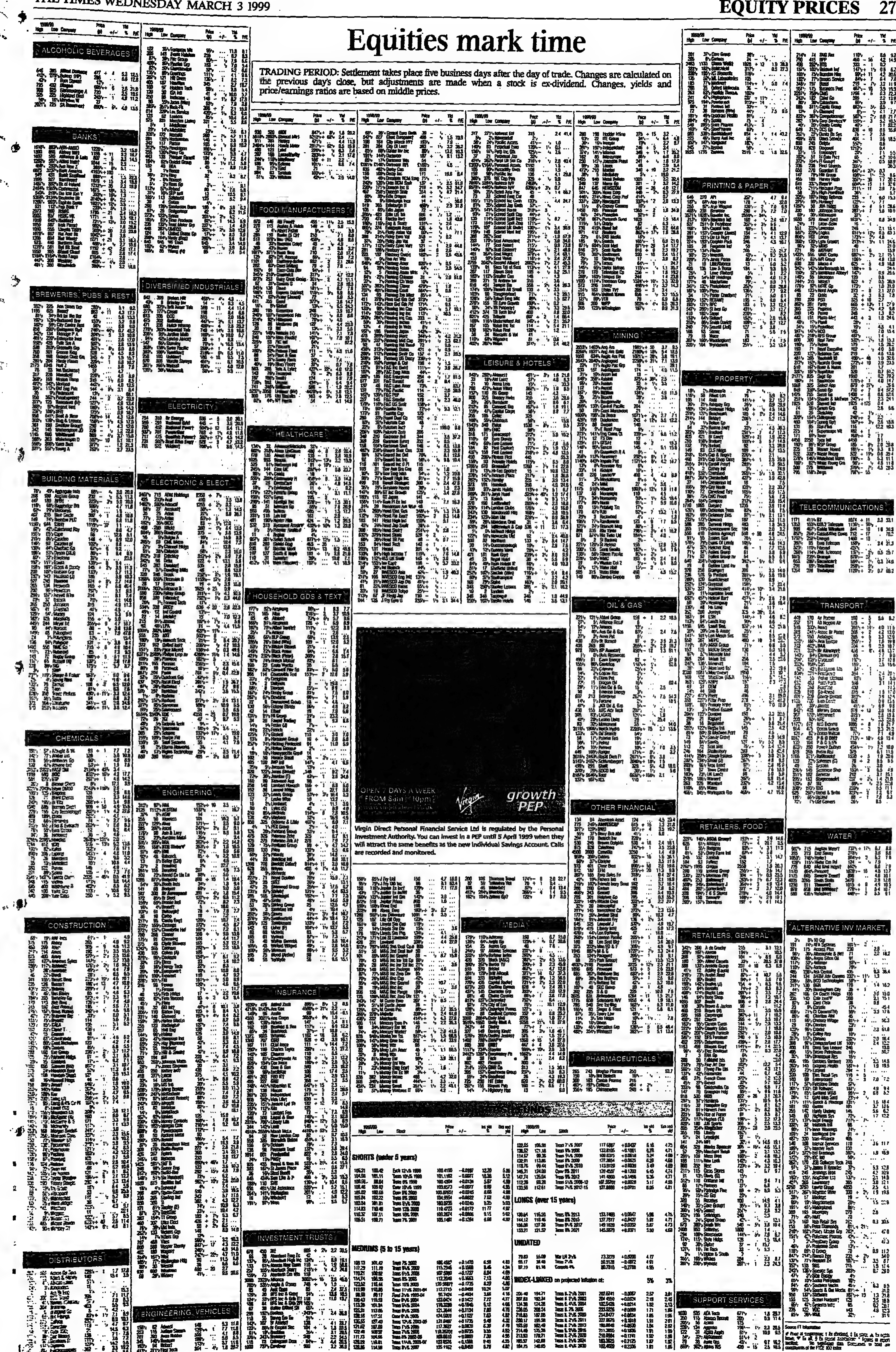
	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
FP [illegible]	106.60	113.00	-0.30	
FP Am Smlr Cos	215.90	230.20		
FP [illegible] Growth	146.00	155.70	-1.70	
FP Australian	467.78	498.80	-2.90	
FP Equity Dist	653.60	697.10	-8.30	1.38
-do- Accum	1513.00	1613.00	-19.00	1.38
FP Euro Gth	497.20	530.30	-15.90	
-do- Accum	544.70	581.00	-17.40	
FP Intl Bond	59.68	63.15†	-0.92	8.97
FP Intl Gth Dist	52.69	56.20	-0.88	
-do- Accum	77.86	83.04	-1.36	
FP Pac Basin Acc	167.00	178.10	-2.50	
FP Income #	78.37	83.59	-0.66	3.58
-do- Accum #	303.00	323.20	-2.50	3.56
FP [illegible] Smlr Cos	180.80	192.80	-3.70	
FP Monthly Dist #	92.03	98.16†	-0.84	4.14
FP [illegible] Deposit	100.70	100.70		4.73
FP Tokyo	63.65	67.88	-1.63	
FP UK Focus	60.91	64.97	-0.75	8.93
FP UK Growth	288.70	307.90	[illegible]	0.91
-do- Accum	603.80	644.00	-7.70	0.91
FP UK Ind Tr Acc	101.20	107.90	-1.70	1.95
Stewardship Dist	532.10	567.50	[illegible]	1.50
-do- Accum	691.30	737.30	[illegible]	1.50
Stwdshp Inc Dist #	83.94	89.53†	[illegible]	4.20
-do- Accum #	128.80	137.30	-0.60	4.20
Stewdshp [illegible]	196.00	209.00	-2.00	0.03
-do- Accum	211.40	225.40	-2.20	0.03
FP Exempt Trust				
Inst Ethical In #	140.20	140.90	-1.80	2.21
Inst Ethical Ac #	147.60	148.30	-1.90	2.21
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Mgd Port Inc #	148.30	157.70†	-0.10	2.16
Mgd Port Acc #	165.90	176.40	-0.10	2.16
Oppo [illegible] Gth Acc	166.20	176.80	-1.40	
Opp Cp Gth Ic Ic #	148.90	158.30†	-1.10	2.87
Opp Cp Gth Ic Ac #	170.50	181.30	-1.20	2.87

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هكذا من الأصل



Equities mark time

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

[illegible]

BANKS

[illegible]

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

[illegible]

BUILDING MATERIALS

[illegible]

CHEMICALS

[illegible]

CONSTRUCTION

[illegible]

DISTRIBUTORS

[illegible]

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

[illegible]

ELECTRICITY

[illegible]

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

[illegible]

ENGINEERING

[illegible]

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

[illegible]

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

[illegible]

HEALTHCARE

[illegible]

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

[illegible]

INSURANCE

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

LEISURE & HOTELS

[illegible]

MEDIA

[illegible]

MINING

[illegible]

OIL & GAS

[illegible]

OTHER FINANCIAL

[illegible]

PHARMACEUTICALS

[illegible]

PRINTING & PAPER

[illegible]

PROPERTY

[illegible]

RETAILERS, FOOD

[illegible]

RETAILERS, GENERAL

[illegible]

SUPPORT SERVICES

[illegible]

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

[illegible]

TRANSPORT

[illegible]

WATER

[illegible]

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

[illegible]

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

[illegible]

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

[illegible]

LONGS (over 15 years)

[illegible]

UNDATED

[illegible]

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of: 5% 3%

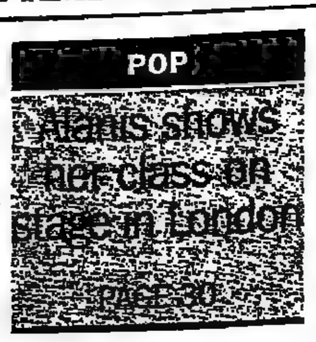
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Source: FT Information



DANCE
Bite-sized premieres from the Royal Ballet
PAGE 29

THE TIMES
ARTS





Energy to make DuBois blanch

André Previn's appetite for music and life seems unflagging as he celebrates his 70th birthday. He talks to Richard Morrison

In his poem *The Road Not Taken* Robert Frost wryly reflects on that moment when we are hit by the realisation that you can't have it all: that opportunity also means renunciation, that choice means loss. Frost died in 1963, so we can forgive his fallacy — for at that time André Previn was a mere Hollywood tunesmith.

Mere? He had already won four Oscars and provided the requisite aural backcloth of swooping strings to everyone from Audrey Hepburn to Lassie. But there was little inkling then that this engaging thirtysomething would turn into one of the musical world's great Protean figures: conductor laureate to the world's top orchestras; plausible jazz pianist; television personality; Sixties swinger; husband to four wives, father to nine children.

The road not taken? Rubbish, Mr Frost. Previn has taken them all — and then some. No second acts in American lives? Piffle, Mr Fitzgerald. Previn has had second, third and fourth acts — and the fat lady ain't singing yet. If anything, the tempo of his work and life is increasing from its normal "frenetic" to "blistering" as he approaches his 70th birthday next month.

Or is it his 70th? When his family fled from Berlin to California in 1938, little Andreas's birth certificate was lost. So he might still be a year short of his three score years and ten. "But frankly," he quips, "when you get to this age it doesn't really matter whether you are 69 or 70. So if it suits the London Symphony Orchestra's schedule for me to be 70 this year, fine."

Aren't these milestones important? "Sure, but not because of vanity. It's just that I've got a lot of things I still want to do. I don't wish to sound grandiose, but you only get one time around, so you'd better do what you know you should."

He is indeed a man in a hurry, but in the past decade he has been rushing in an unexpected direction: into serious composition. It is as if — after the factory-farmed music-making of MGM, the mad jet-setting of his early podium career ("for 20 years I conducted in cities you can't even find on the map"), and the emotional toll of loving and leaving four wives, two of them very famous — he is now distilling life's twists and turns, sweet and sour, into big musical statements.

None has come bigger than last year's project. Previn wrote an epic operatic setting of Tennessee Williams's *A Streetcar Named Desire*, complete with rape (turbulent orchestral interlude: discreet stage blackout), luscious arias, and some startlingly angry music. "A lot of people thought that it would be relentlessly American," Previn says. "It isn't. In fact one musical friend said: 'My God, you are a German after all'. But the big arias do tend to go back to Barber and to Britten — my biggest hero."

> 'You only get one time round — and I've got lots still to do'

Perhaps because the opera's San Francisco premiere last September became the most hyped American operatic occasion since Toscanini conducted at the Met, and perhaps because of who the composer was, some critics were more than a little sniffy about this unimpeachably well-crafted piece. "I understand that: it's normal," Previn says, affecting mature indifference. But then his combative spirit rises to the bait. "I noticed that when *Streetcar* was shown on television last month, at least a dozen critics reviewed it again and more or less said 'this is a lot better than we gave it credit for'. That made me very happy. I mean, even Renée Fleming got bad reviews at the premiere, which was insane. She was glorious as Blanche DuBois."

Either way, this *Streetcar* is destined to travel, thanks to the Previn name and his reputation for writing music that audiences (rather than critics) enjoy. He says that no fewer than seven stagings are planned across America and Europe, including a possible British premiere by Opera North. Thus encouraged, he is now working on his second opera, setting a recent Italian novella called *Silk*, by Alessandro Baricco. "It's the antithesis of *Streetcar*: very romantic, almost erotic, about the travels of a French silk merchant to Japan."

That's not all. Previn is also composing a big work for the Vienna Philharmonic, plus various chamber pieces. "If I am allowed by the calender and its vagaries, I will complete them one after the other," he says, as if viewing a pile of knitting patterns.

Will all this composing interfere with his other lives? Silly question. The LSO's Previn tribute next week — three concerts focused on the ripe Romantic music that he interprets so gloriously — signal his resolve to keep his public life spinning as merrily as ever. And the jamboree is bound to rekindle nostalgia for Previn's 11 years at the LSO's helm in the Seventies — a decade when, largely thanks to his charismatic *Music Nights* on BBC TV, the orchestra became a household name.

"There's no such thing as serious music on television now," says Previn sadly. "It always has to have a gimmick. That's too bad. When I did those BBC shows — and we must have done a hundred hours or more — it became tougher to get a ticket to an LSO concert than to a hit West End show."

The indifference of television networks to serious music is not the only change that Previn, knighted in 1996, notes with regret when he returns to London. Another is the financial mess of British musical life. But surely 'twas ever thus?

"Not to the degree that it is now," he replies. "Sure, we had to chase funding. We also suffered from government indifference. But it was still possible to make ends meet without sacrificing artistic goals. When I see the things that British orchestras now have to resort to, and the crazy goings-on at Covent Garden, I am so sorry. You see, when I came to live in England in the late Sixties, I thought that London was the greatest musical city in the world — and it was.

"It's still a great musical city, but no longer as important. And that's a shame, because the orchestras are still brilliant. I don't know anywhere in Europe, and certainly not in the States, where the plight of the individual musician is as bad as it is here. And yet British players are endlessly cheerful. Sure, it's black humour. But come the night of performance, they really produce the goods. They can give phenomenal performances that rank with the best anywhere. That's why I still love coming to London."

● *At the Barbican (0171-638 8891) Previn gives a recital with Kiri Te Kanawa on Sunday, and conducts the LSO on March 10 and 15. His opera,* A Streetcar Named Desire, *is released by DG (459 366-2)*

CHRISTIAN STEINER



Previn: now embarked on writing his second opera after the première of *Streetcar* in San Francisco

Weir's showboat to China

CONCERTS
SCO/Parrott
Glasgow

The success of *A Night at the Chinese Opera* on its first performance at the Cheltenham Festival in 1987 has not been an unmixed blessing for Judith Weir. On the one hand, the opera established her reputation more or less overnight and led to big commissions and appointments; on the other hand, it set standards she has been expected at least to equal in every new work since.

So anyone who feels that nothing she has written during the past 11 years comes near to matching it, let alone excelling it, must have wondered whether *A Night at the Chinese Opera* was really all that good. Were we deluded perhaps by Richard Jones's brilliant Kent Opera production? Well, the best way of finding out was to go to the concert performance presented by the BBC as part of its *Beyond our Shores* festival in Glasgow last week.

The answer is that we were not deluded. It is an uncommonly inspired little opera and one of the very few British works of its kind to be animated by a true gift for comedy in musical terms. In comparison with the embarrassingly laborious efforts of even her most experienced contemporaries, Weir's libretto is a model of wit and her score a remarkable example of facility in word setting.

If only the Scottish Chamber Orchestra's programme had contained the text, the bemused half of the otherwise amused audience in the Royal Concert Hall would have been able to appreciate it too. This is no reflection on the singing or on the balance between instruments and voices. No one could have tried harder than this well chosen cast. Frances Lynch, as the protagonist in the Chinese opera-within-the-opera, perhaps went even too far in this respect. Michael Chance as the Military Governor got it absolutely right, as did the impressively versatile Adey Grummet, Frances McCafferty, Adrian Thompson, Karl Daymond and Gwion Thomas.

Andrew Parrott, who conducted the original production, clearly enjoys this score. Certainly, he secured a most accomplished performance from the SCO players, who were effective not only in reflecting the affectionate parody of the Chinese-opera Act II but also in registering the [illegible]ly exotic colouring of the first. If the last act seemed less interesting, this probably had less to do with the performance than with a score which, becoming more conventional as the dramatic situation becomes more serious, falls away towards the end.

GERALD LARNER

Giving it some stick

LSO/Maazel
Barbican

IN TWO concerts with the London Symphony Orchestra in the middle of last week, Lorin Maazel demonstrated his abilities as composer, violinist and conductor. Renaissance man or showman, there is no denying his formidable talents. On Sunday night, he returned to the rostrum with more serious intent. The showmanship was not banished entirely, but these were towering, deeply impressive accounts of Schubert's *Unfinished* and Bruckner's Seventh Symphonies.

In the *Unfinished*, dynamics were calibrated with exceptional precision to build paragraphs of cumulative tension and power. Ranging from intimate whispers to climaxes of searing intensity, Maazel's handling of the first movement did justice to all the dark undercurrents, the anxieties at which this music hints. At the same time, both here and in the Andante, he allowed the strings of the LSO to revel in ripe sonorities: no quarter given to historical practice here.

Bruckner's Seventh opens with a propitious horn theme, gloriously arching upward. As that theme unfolded and grandiloquently expanded, Maazel nailed his colours to the mast. It was clear this was going to be no mere jog through the work. But was it too soon for such an exhilarating effect? In fact, Maazel was able to conjure a coda of similarly apocalyptic power, so the movement rested on firm pillars.

Between them were some questionable things. The second subject (marked "calm") shot off at double speed on each occurrence, except on its return in inverted form in the development, where its minor-key eloquence impeded the flow. I also felt, or imagined, a sense of manipulation as Maazel made an exaggerated rallentando before the onset of that awesome coda.

Inevitably, the exhibitionist in Maazel leads him to include the controversial cymbal crash and triangle roll at the climax of the Adagio (reinforced with histrionic gesturing). The choice is a legitimate one, nevertheless, and entirely apt in the context of such an interpretation. No need to cavil anyway when the nobility of this monumental movement, with its elegiac tribute to the deceased Wagner, is so magnificently realised.

A steadily paced, sinewy Scherzo followed, and then a well-paced, triumphal finale. If only Maazel could always deliver like this.

BARRY MILLINGTON

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

RICHARD FAIRHURST

Profession: Jazz pianist

Age: 23

Beginnings: Born in Clatterbridge, near Wirral; moved to Leicester at 11.

Any albums yet? Yes, his second, *Formic*, has just been released by the innovative Babel company. His first won a prize at the Perrier Jazz Awards. He has also been named as a Steinway artist.

So none of those new-fangled synthesizers? "I'm really getting into electronics too, especially after hearing what Joe Zawinul does with them. You have to find your own way of taking jazz forward. It's not all about copying what was done in the 1960s."

Where can we hear him? His group, the Hungry Ants, appears at the Crucible, Sheffield on Friday. Later next month he'll also play solo piano in *Take the Fire* at the Lyric Studio, Hammersmith. Huw Warren's newly commissioned score accompanies Jean Cocteau's monologues, performed by Amanda Harris (and originally witten for Edith Piaf).

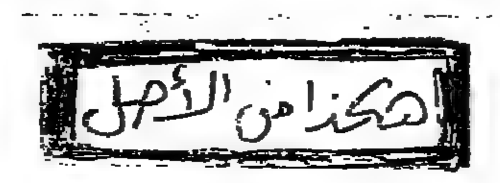
When did he get the jazz bug? Miles Davis's album *Kind of Blue* was a formative experience. "None of my friends at school was into jazz, so I was kind of on my own."

Does he hope to conquer New York's clubs one day? He's already done a stint in Manhattan, studying at the prestigious New School. "New York has all that great history and tradition. But I prefer the European scene because it's more varied. We have a lot more influences from Africa and Asia. And there are more possibilities for exploring composed music, which is something that really appeals to me."

CLIVE DAVIS

NEW YORK GALLE





NEW YORK GALLERIES: Experience of warfare changed Picasso both as a man and an artist, **Richard Cork** writes

The horrors beyond Guernica



MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, NEW YORK

Perhaps the most openly despairing image Picasso ever produced: The Charnel House, from 1945, is his reaction not only to the Second World War but to the horrors of the Holocaust

Until 1936 Picasso's art showed little overt interest in political events. Then, quite suddenly, the Spanish Civil War erupted. Picasso watched it develop with a mounting sense of revulsion. An instinctive pacifist, he was especially horrified when Franco's forces made the small Basque town of Guernica a target for saturation bombing.

At that moment, in the early summer of 1937, Picasso's work underwent a convulsive change. A commission from Spain's Republican Government to produce a monumental painting for the Spanish Pavilion at a Paris exhibition pitched him into an art of protest, violence and pain. An avalanche of images concentrating on weeping women and contorted, dying animals prepared him for the execution of *Guernica* itself. Suffering, conveyed in ever more jagged and fractured forms, became his overwhelming obsession.

This is the dramatic starting-point for **Picasso and the War Years**, a major exhibition filling the spirals of the Guggenheim Museum in New York with a vortex of wrenching emotions. Walking up the ramps of Frank Lloyd Wright's whirling interior we find ourselves drawn into a world besieged by terrors. The completion of *Guernica* was not a catharsis that purged Picasso of the need to express anguish. Far from it: he embarked now on exploring a world that grew darker as world war approached.

His grimmest forebodings were borne out when Germany overran France with ruthless speed. Marooned on the coast near Bordeaux, he decided to abandon thoughts of escape and return to occupied Paris. The city remained his home throughout the conflict, and must often have appeared as irksome as a prison cell. Certainly, the paintings Picasso produced there exude a strong feeling of entrapment. Still life became an obsession, and he grew supremely conscious of its significance as a *memento mori*. In one gruesome canvas, painted in 1941 when Picasso was 60, a blood sausage lies coiled like an intestine on a table-top. The blade of a knife gleams expectantly amid the gloom, and the cutlery jammed in a nearby drawer rises up as if in agitated anticipation of sacrifical ritual to come. The painting is drained of all colour save black, grey and white.

Austerity became the keynote of his war pictures, coupled with an emphasis on fractured harshness. A skull frequently invades these black interiors, and in one case takes the form of an ominous bronze sculpture isolated on its plinth. As for the women who so often loom out from the shadows, they look as oppressed as the inanimate objects. Picasso is ready to take appalling liberties with their features, twisting or pummelling eyes, noses and mouths until they end up resembling the victims of barbaric pugilistic bouts.

Occasionally, tenderness breaks through the bleakness, and we sense Picasso's love for the two women who shared his volcanic affections: the young Marie-Therese Walter and the older, more intellectual and embittered Dora Maar. On the whole, though, it is impossible to disentangle Picasso's feelings about the privations and tensions of war from *his* tormented response to the women he painted. They both form part of his attempt to survive an intensely difficult period, when he probably never knew how the attitude of his German masters might change in response to Hitler's notorious hatred of "degenerate" avant-garde artists.

After D-Day arrived, Picasso felt able to embark on a larger, more ambitious painting openly denouncing the atrocities of the concentration camps. *The Charnel House* shows the heaped and tangled bodies of a mother, father and child lying in a stark domestic interior. Their inertness contrasts with the flamboyant, rasping restlessness of *Guernica* eight years before, when Picasso still felt that brutality could be resisted by the forces of compassion. Now, in *The Charnel House*, the obscene extermination of the Jews forced him to explore a more pessimistic order of feeling. It is, perhaps, the most openly despairing image Picasso ever produced.

Elsewhere in New York, equally intense images of women can be found in the **Julia Margaret Cameron** exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art. The violence so often dominant in Picasso's wartime paintings does not disrupt her photographs. But they are no less compelling.

Until now, Cameron has been renowned above all for her portraits of distinguished men — most notably Alfred, Lord Tennyson, her neighbour on the Isle of Wight. By concentrating on female images, though, this exceptional show proves that women lay at the centre of her eloquent, single-minded vision.

Coming to photography late in life, Cameron quickly asserted outstanding abilities. After her daughter presented the 48-year-old Cameron with a camera in 1863, she suffered no disadvantage from the lack of a professional training. Showing an admirable impatience with studio conventions of the period, she dismissed all thought of straining for sharp-focus, dogged, full-length portraiture. For her, true imaginative insight was gained by closing on the sitter. She often concentrated on the face alone, and did not mind if a certain blurring entered the final image. It gave life to her subject, countering the camera's tendency to freeze the sitter in a state of unnatural immobility.

As a result, the women in her finest work are defined with astonishing immediacy. They gaze out at us in all their breathing, emotion-filled actuality. Although obliged by Cameron to pose with as much stillness as possible for several minutes, they do not display signs of intolerable constraint. On the contrary: they seem charged by the camera's presence, their identities heightened through Cameron's probing scrutiny.

At the Metropolitan Museum of Art, a fascinating feat of revaluation has transformed the reputation of a long-neglected Renaissance painter. In his heyday in the early 16th century **Dosso Dossi** enjoyed high esteem. He was ducal favourite at the Court of Ferrara, and regarded by many as worthy of comparison with Leonardo, Raphael and Titian. But in later centuries the dispersal of his work meant that Dosso was overlooked.

Dosso was at his best when contributing to Duke Alfonso d'Este's showcase for Venetian art within the castle at Ferrara. Here, competing with canvases by Bellini and Titian, he painted mythological figures in landscapes with a highly individual poetic fervour.

One of the first artists to improvise freely on canvas, he becomes especially liberated in wildly handled, distant panoramas where land, sea and sky melt into a visionary, luminous haze. Few painters have conveyed a sense of wonder with as much sensuous richness as Dosso, whose finest work assures him a high place in the pantheon of Renaissance masters.

● Picasso and the War Years *is at the Guggenheim Museum (001212-423-3500) until May 9;* Julia Margaret Cameron's Women *at MoMA (001212-708-9400) until May 4;* Dosso Dossi *at the Metropolitan Museum (001212-570-3951) until Mar 28*

AROUND THE LONDON GALLERIES

IN 1917, with the war dragging on endlessly in Europe, the great French couturier Paul Poiret had an innovative business idea. He would go to New York with a portfolio of designs and license American clothing firms to manufacture his designs. Of course, the portfolio had to be alluring, and so he turned to his painter friend **Raoul Dufy**. Poiret and Dufy had already worked together for several years, with Dufy designing wonderfully rich and expensive fabrics hand-printed from his own wood blocks.

But this pictorial realisation of Poiret's dress designs was quite a new notion. Clearly the sympathy between the two men was extraordinary: in these lively, elegant sketches it is difficult to guess where Dufy begins and Poiret leaves off. Also, you cannot but be amazed at the prescience of Poiret: there are a couple of designs thatmight have come from one of Dior's sketchbooks while he was creating the New Look.

Neffe-Degandt, 32a St George Street, W1 (0171-493 2630) until April 30

☐ **David Piddock's** paintings are funny. That is the first thing to say about them. In *Death of the Avant Garde*, for instance, apparently inspired by the RA's notorious *Sensation* show, we can actually see Myra Hindley being daubed in the background, while other visitors peer and stretch and arrange their notes. All Piddock's tableaux are staged in galleries. Sometimes the characters, or their emotions, seem to escape from the art works and rampage around the building. Sometimes the opposite is the case: titanic convulsions may be happening on the walls around them, but the visitors remain sublimely unaffected.

Piddock is in fact making serious observations about art and life, though in an endearingly unsolemn fashion. Also, his works are beautifully painted, full of textural and tonal subtleties.Post-Modernism it no doubt is, but Post-Modernism with wit, skill and no pretensions.

Fine Art Society, 148 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-0629 5116) until Friday

☐ SOME artists parade their rigour: **Barry Hirst** just stands back and lets his creep up on you. Look closely at these apparently casual pictures of two cats sleeping, of Northumbrian fishing villages, of trees and gardens. They are designed with extraordinary crispness in blocks of pale colour, making deeply satisfying patterns across the paper. For they are in fact watercolours on paper.

Hirst's surface is built up laboriously until it looks like an early Renaissance mural, faded by time and slightly chalky. He is in a class by himself.

Mercury Gallery, 26 Cork Street, W1 (0171-734 7800) until March 13

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

Against the run of the tide



New choreography is what *Dance Bites* is all about, an opportunity to take a few risks by working on the smaller scale. Between now and March 13 the Royal Ballet is fielding two simultaneous *Dance Bites* tours (sponsored by Glaxo Wellcome) which are presenting a total of five premieres. Three of them were unveiled at the Theatre Royal in Bath on Monday night.

The biggest risk-taker is Cathy Marston, who returns to *Dance Bites* for the third year in a row. She gives us *Tidelines*, a meditative ballet that wears its intellectual genesis with pride. Marston is fascinated by the attraction of opposites, by the idea that we seek in others "the elements that we lack in order to feel complete in ourselves".

As its title suggests, *Tidelines*, set to music by the Australian Peter Sculthorpe, is inspired by the ebb and flow of the tide. Marston's choreography reflects opposing dynamics — fluid and brittle, flowing and static — and the six dancers are both drawn to each other and resolutely separate.

The language is evocative of a watery landscape but seems caught up in a self-perpetuating eddy until suddenly Marston produces a staggeringly beautiful and sensually pungent pas de deux that gives the ballet an unforgettable punch line. Mara Galeazzi wraps herself around Jonathan Cope like clingfilm, as if seeking to absorb him. The attraction of opposites here reaches its ultimate statement, as man becomes woman and woman becomes man.

Ashley Page is another choreographer who makes sexy duets, but his *Soft Underbelly*, danced to Wim Mertens's music from the film *The Belly of an Architect*, is a trio. The two men and one woman (Joshua Tuifua, Hubert Essakow and Jenny Tattersall) engage in a power struggle that takes them through shared stretched-out couplings to speedy and assertive declarations of self. A standard Page work, it nonetheless satisfied in the way it gave all three dancers a PC equality.

Michael Corder has not worked with the Royal Ballet in 14 years, so his return to the company excited much expectation. His *Masquerade*, set to Stravinsky's *Pulcinella Suite*, reveals Corder's skill as a ballet craftsman. His suite of non-narrative dances, inspired by the characters of commedia dell'arte, are artful and attractive, the most Classically rigorous item on the bill.

Corder's language, both formal and frolicsome, shows why he is such an asset to a ballet company. He blends felicitous shapes for the ensemble with vivacious solo work for his three fine ballerinas — Viviana Durante, Miyako Yoshida and Leanne Benjamin.

But for all the flair and lissomness of his writing, he does not go far enough in stamping his imprimatur on the choreography. He could afford to be a little less proficient and a little more personal.

DEBRA CRAINE

Ancestral footwork

Adzido
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Now in its fifteenth year, Adzido Pan African Dance Ensemble claims to be Europe's largest African dance company. Its brief is to embrace a variety of dance styles from across the African continent.

The troupe's newest production, *Secrets of Makaleng*, strings together dances from Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Burkina-Faso, Botswana, Zimbabwe and the Ivory Coast. Fuelled by a great sextet of drummers, the 16-strong ensemble keeps this melting pot of motion on the boil.

With pumping limbs, supple backs and frantically flexed torsos, they are like tireless revellers at some traditional-culture rave. They perform religious dances, homages to the harvest and the hunt, buoyantly aggressive warrior dances for both genders and celebrations of the marriage bond with a verve that warms the blood. Even collective grief packs a celebratory punch when dancers' hips are whirling like hula-hoops caught in the spin cycle.

Some of their neater footwork might have filtered down from the plains of Africa into the kitscher fields of show business. Act II opens with a courtship dance complete with tap-like shuffle-kicks — barefoot, of course — that seem an ethnic precursor of Broadway hoofing.

There are more costume changes than in a West End musical. Yet even with all the fur pelts, feathers, grass skirts and ankle beads, this is no jungle catwalk. Gathering steam, the dancers really work their flesh. At their best, they call out to us about the unbridled joy of bodies shimmying and stomping for all they are worth.

The show's downfall is structural. The programme refers to "a journey through time and space ... on which we will absorb knowledge, regain lost memory and gather wisdom in order to move toward the future". Such a vaguely idealistic charting of cultural history is fine, as long as it translates into full-throttle movement. But the performance is hamstrung by some unfortunate cinematic bridging. Each dance is fronted by a naive and awkward little film, with actors in native garb spouting pretentious ancestral-speak.

But the musicians and dancers save the day. The latter's climactic parade of party pieces whips the audience into cheering frenzies of pleasure.

DONALD HUTERA

ARTS

LISTINGS
Rufus Sewell as Macbeth

MUSIC
Schumann enigmas

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

MACBETH: Rufus Sewell and Sally Dexter play the superstitious Thane and his missis in John Crowley's production.
Queens, W1 (0171-494 5041). Opens tonight, 7pm.

ORAZIO GENTILESCHI: This unique exhibition of the works of the 17th-century Italian painter brings together a number of works from his time as court painter to Charles I. A collaboration with the Museo de Bellas Artes in Bilbao.
National Gallery (0171-839 3321). Opens today

MAURIZIO POLLINI: This spring season of the Harrods International Piano Series opens with a recital by the distinguished Italian pianist performing a selection of Beethoven miniatures, and 33 Variations on a Waltz by Diabelli.
Festival Hall (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.30pm.

THE COLOUR OF JUSTICE: THE STEPHEN LAWRENCE INQUIRY: Tricycle Theatre's gripping, shocking account of the sequence of (deliberate?) mistakes.
Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317). Opens tonight, 7.45pm.

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM. Simon Rattle returns to old haunts as he conducts the **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra** in a concert featuring two popular pieces: Rachmaninov's Second Symphony preceded by Elgar's *Cello Concerto* with the acclaimed Norwegian cellist Truls Mork as soloist.
Symphony Hall (0121-212 3333). Tonight, 7.30pm.


Simon Rattle returns to conduct the CBSO

GUILDFORD: Sheila Gish stars as the vengeful Mrs Venable in **Suddenly Last Summer**, Tennessee Williams's chilling tale of motherly love. Sean Mathias directs a collaboration between the Yvonne Arnaud and Warehouse Productions. A West End run follows.
Yvonne Arnaud (01483 440000). Opens tonight, 7.45pm.

POOLE: The **Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra** kicks off its Beethoven concerto series with the imposing Emperor Concerto. Also featured is Sibelius's First Symphony. With the talented young pianist Peter Jablonski as soloist. Andrew Litton conducts.
Arts Centre (01202 685222). Tonight, 7.30pm.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only ◩ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

□ **SLAVA'S SNOWSHOW:** The excellent Russian clown returns bringing with him new material, as well as Angela de Castro, and his unforgettable finale.
Piccadilly Theatre (0171-369 1734).

■ **THREE DAYS OF RAIN:** Elizabeth McGovern heads the cast of Richard Greenberg's play, greatly liked at the Manhattan Theatre Club last year. Robin Lefevre directs this journey back to 1960.
Donmar (0171-369 1732).

□ **SHOCKHEADED PETER:** The Scissorman is back: wonderfully sinister show by the Cultural Industry team with the Tiger Lillies and Martyn Jacques's falsetto screech.
Lyric (0181-741 8701/2311).

□ **DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN:** Mark Little makes his West End debut in Rob Becker's new comedy, tracing the origins of the man/woman difference back to the caves.
Apollo (0171-494 5070.)

◩ **COPENHAGEN:** Heisenberg mysteriously calls on Niels Bohr in wartime Denmark. Michael Frayn's intelligent play transfers to the West End. Michael Blakemore directs.
Duchess (0171-494 5075).

□ **PADDY IRISHMAN, PADDY ENGLISHMAN AND PADDY...?:** Two Irish exiles in Kilburn fall in with some hard men. Anthony Clark's Birmingham Rep production arrives here.
Tricycle Theatre (0171-328 1000).

□ **THE PRISONER OF SECOND AVENUE:** Richard Dreyfuss and Marsha Mason make their British stage debuts in Neil Simon's 1971 comedy, not seen here till now.
Richmond (0181-940 0088).

□ **THE RIOT:** Co-production with Kneehigh Theatre of Cornwall, presenting Nick Darke's new play, set at the turn of the century where the army is brought in to quell the rivalry between two towns.
Cottesloe (0171-452 3000)

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

THE THIN RED LINE (15): A glittering cast of American soldiers lose their sanity in the South Pacific during the Second World War. Terrence Malick's first film for 20 years is an artistic masterpiece.

YOU'VE GOT MAIL (PG): Bullet-proof romantic blockbuster with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan who fall in love on the Internet. Written and directed by Nora Ephron.

PAINTED ANGELS (15): Bleak period piece about the prostitutes who serviced the frontiersmen of the Wild West. A joyless plod between the smelly punters and the drab wooden rooms by Jon Sanders.

TITANIC TOWN (15): Julie Walters excels as a pugnacious Catholic housewife in this grim review of Northern Ireland's Troubles circa 1972. Roger Michell directs.

PERDITA DURANGO (18): Rosie Perez and Javier Bardem are two Tex-Mex pyschopaths who run amok in a careless road movie involving voodoo, frozen foetuses and drugs.

URBAN LEGEND (18): Dire James Blanks horror flick that slashes through an American campus with the help of a migraine-inducing orchestra.

CURRENT

AFFLICTION (15): Paul Schrader's bruising portrait of a frustrated small-town cop. Nick Nolte and James Coburn put in powerful performances as father and son caught in a cycle of male violence.

THIS YEAR'S LOVE (18): David Kane's buzzy comedy charts the mess six Camden Town misfits make of their love lives among the junk stalls. With Kathy Burke, Jennifer Ehle, Douglas Henshall, Dougray Scott, Catherine McCormack and Ian Hart.

HOLY MAN (PG): Eddie Murphy's naive spiritual guru and Jeff Goldblum's sleazy TV executive team up to sell inferior products on a shopping channel. Director Stephen Herek flogs the satire rather less keenly than his big name stars.

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (PG): Roberto Benigni's romantic Second World War fable stitches a disturbing comedy into the Holocaust. Supremely well acted, but the comic treatment of the struggle to survive in a death camp is at best nauseating.

Rockin' all over the words

POP: When you can't hear her lyrics, Alanis Morissette cooks, says **David Sinclair**

Although sales of Alanis Morissette's current album, *Supposed Former Infatuation Junkie*, have carried it past the platinum mark (300,000 copies) in this country and well beyond in America, it has come nowhere close to emulating the phenomenal success of her 1995 album, *Jagged Little Pill*. In fairness, no one was expecting that it would.

But she has not made things easy for herself, couching the dense, introspective lyrics of her new songs in enough pseudo-psychological jargon to sink a battleship, prompting a critical backlash that has focused almost entirely on her words rather than her musical deeds as a whole. Indeed, so firmly has she now been cast in the role of the glum, "post-feminist" singer-songwriter that it came as something of a surprise when Morissette gambolled on stage at the Shepherd's Bush Empire on Monday and, with the aid of a five-piece backing band, reeled off an opening salvo that was more like something from a Page & Plant gig than anything else.

The musical influences absorbed during her recent travels in India were immediately apparent on *Baba*, a number that combined Eastern modulations with a thunderous, bottom-heavy drum sound, and again in *Would Not Come*, which was driven by a bass riff that coiled and writhed like a fakir's snake.

With Morissette's voice well bedded in the guitar-dominated mix and her appalling diction doing the rest, the emphasis was thankfully switched away from the overwrought lyrics and on to her undoubted talents as a singer who knows how to rock.

The set was laced with plenty of old favourites, many of them recast in a new light. There was a heavily syncopated *Hand In My Pocket*, a stripped and sinister *You Oughta Know* and, for an encore, a simple, acoustic version of *Ironic* presented alongside an appropriate *Thank U*. During *You Learn* she took off on a frantic bout of bunny hops and dizzying twirls.

But it was the new material that most benefited from the bright, muscular live treatment on show here, particularly *Can't Not* with its brooding opening chords, and the delicate *Joining You*, during which Morissette was circled continuously by a woman holding a camera as if making some obscure symbolic point about the role of the media in defining her self-image.

The impact dissipated somewhat as the show went on, and adjustments to the pacing and presentation of the set may be needed before Morissette returns for a tour of much bigger venues in the summer. But whatever her message is these days, she remains a musician and live performer of considerable clout.


ANGELA LUBRANO
Warming up: Alanis Morissette shows her rockier, more accessible side at the Shepherd's Bush Empire

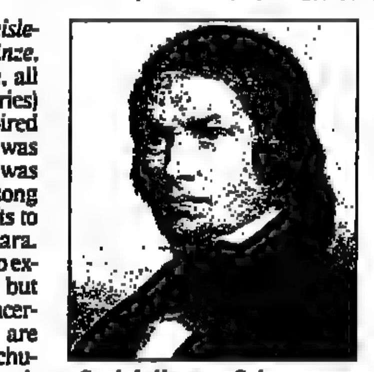
MUSIC PREVIEW: With a year of Schumann in prospect, **Judith Chernaik** unravels the composer's final illness

The madness in his method

With typical flair, the Wigmore Hall is hosting a Schumann Series throughout the year, featuring seldom-played late works alongside the famous masterpieces for piano, voice and chamber groups. András Schiff's all-Schumann recitals are the jewel in the crown, and tomorrow's recital includes the last work Schumann composed, *Geister Variations*, dictated by the spirits of Schubert and Mendelssohn. The story is well known: only a few months after meeting the 20-year-old Brahms, Schumann suffered a severe breakdown. The angelic voices turned into demons, and the distraught composer threw himself into the Rhine. A few days later he was taken to an asylum at Endenich, where he died two years later.

Schumann's development as an artist was oddly back to front. The works central to the pianist's repertoire (*Carnaval*, *Etudes Symphoniques*, *Kreisleriana*, *Davidsbündlertänze*, and the C Major Fantasie, all part of the Wigmore series) were composed in inspired bursts when Schumann was still in his twenties. This was also true of the great 1840 song cycles, intended as love gifts to his beloved wife-to-be, Clara. The next ten years were also extraordinarily productive, but the symphonies, Piano Concerto and chamber works are sometimes flawed by Schumann's struggle with Classical sonata form.

Then in 1850 there was a disastrous move to Düsseldorf, and soon afterwards, hints of the coming tragedy: nervous exhaustion, speech difficulties, severe tinnitus and aural delusions, leading up to the violent collapse of February 1854. Astonishingly, Schumann continued to compose to the end.


Social disease: Schumann was destroyed by syphilis

A post-mortem report on Schumann's final illness by Dr Franz Richarz, the director of the asylum, described brain abnormalities indicating "serous organic disease originating in early youth". The report was published a year after Schumann's death in a biography by Wilhelm von Wasielewski, Schumann's Düsseldorf assistant and concert-master. Though they could not say so publicly, both Richarz and Wisielewski must have known that Schumann was suffering from the most horrific and invariably fatal form of tertiary syphilis.

Schumann's case and its diagnosis were complicated by a parallel set of "symptoms" given enduring life in his music. In 1831, Schumann joyfully welcomed into his diary two new friends: Florestan, a leader of men, named after the hero of Beethoven's *Fidelio*, and Eusebius, a shy, dreamy fellow, rather like Schubert. The two friends make their musical debut in *Carnaval*, where they join in a delightful masquerade by other real and imagined friends, including "Chiarina" (Clara), Chopin and Paganini. They also jointly compose Schumann's first Piano Sonata.

The divided personality portrayed in the music has fed psychoanalytical theories of Schumann's breakdown. The psychiatrist Peter Ostwald diagnosed long-term manic-depressive illness fuelled by homoerotic longings.

New material published only recently sets these troubling matters in a clearer light. For Richarz kept daily notes on his most famous patient and extracts published in 1994 draw a harrowing picture of Schumann's clinical state: intense agitation, sleeplessness, weeping spells, jerkiness of the limbs, delusions and paranoid fears (he violently rejected food he believed to be poisoned).

At one point Schumann himself made notes on his condition, and recorded that he had syphilis in 1831 and was "cured" with arsenic, but his frequent reference to "Nemesis" and to his own guilt and his last cry to Clara — "Ah Clara, I am not worthy of your love" — suggest that he was haunted for years by the spectre of his impending fate.

In his 1997 biography, *Robert Schumann*, John Daviero concedes that the "likely" cause of Schumann's last illness was syphilis. But he vigorously defends the late work: "Whoever hears signs of decay in the late music simply does not know it very well."

● *András Schiff plays Schumann at the Wigmore Hall tomorrow at 7.30pm (0171-935 2141)*

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Court of Appeal — Law Report March 3 1999 — Court of Appeal

Relevant factors in copyright costs

AEI Rediffusion Music Ltd v Phonographic Performance Ltd

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Mummery and Lord Justice Mantell

[Judgment February 19]

The Copyright Tribunal had a wide discretion in making an order for the payment of the costs of an application to settle the terms of a licence under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

Relevant factors for the tribunal to consider included an assessment of the positions taken by both parties on the application, the terms of the initial proposals and counter-proposals, the points taken by each side at the hearing and the amount of time and money spent on preparing and presenting the evidence and arguments.

Where the tribunal had concluded that both the licensing body and the user had proposed terms which were unreasonable, it had erred in awarding costs to the party it viewed as the overall winner.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by AEI Rediffusion Music Ltd against the decision of Mr Justice Neuberger in the Chancery Division on July 9, 1998 to overturn the decision of the Copyright Tribunal (Mr Antony Watson, QC, chairman) ([1998] EMLR 459) that the licensing body, Phonographic Performance Ltd ("PPL"), pay two thirds of AEI's costs of making applications under sections 135D and 135E of the 1988 Act, as inserted by section 175(1) of the Broadcasting Act 1990, to settle the terms of payment and the conditions of a licence to broadcast sound recordings pursuant to section 135C ([1998] EMLR 240).

The judge ordered that there should be no order for costs on the section 135D application and that AEI should pay PPL's costs of the section 135E application.

Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Mr Hodge Malek for AEI; Mr Jonathan Rayner James, QC, for PPL.

LORD JUSTICE MUMMERY said that AEI had notified PPL of its intention to avail itself of a statutory licence to broadcast sound recordings pursuant to section 135C of the 1988 Act. It had then objected to both the operating conditions and the payment terms in the licence proposed by PPL.

It had made applications to the Copyright Tribunal under section 135D to settle the terms of payment and under section 135E to settle the conditions of the licence. The application under section 135E had not been determined by the tribunal since, subject to some minor amendments, AEI had ultimately dropped its opposition and accepted PPL's proposed terms.

The tribunal's decision could be summarised as follows: it had accepted the royalty rate proposed by PPL and rejected the rate advanced by AEI; it had rejected PPL's and accepted AEI's definition of "relevant revenue"; and it had reduced PPL's fixed fee per site but rejected AEI's contention that there should be no such fee at all.

The chairman of the tribunal had concluded that AEI had been the winners of the application and that PPL should pay AEI's costs subject to a one-third reduction by reason of the way in which AEI had conducted their case.

The judge had set aside that order. On the section 135D application he had substituted an order that there should be no order as to costs. On the section 135E application he had ordered AEI to pay PPL's costs.

The judge had rejected AEI's submissions that, as an applicant was required to make an application to the tribunal to settle the terms of payment, it was to be treated as a plaintiff and that PPL was to be treated as a defendant, as in litigation concerning a money claim.

On the basis of that analogy AEI had argued that it ought to be awarded its costs against PPL, as it had done significantly better than it would have done by accepting the terms of payment proposed by PPL. It followed that it was the overall winner and in the position equivalent to that of a successful plaintiff on a money claim in court.

The judge had been right to interfere with the exercise of the tribunal's discretion on the basis that the chairman had erred in principle by ordering costs to follow the event that AEI was to be treated as the winner and PPL as the loser of the application to the tribunal.

On an application to settle terms of payment or other conditions the tribunal had power to make such an order as it might determine to be reasonable in all the circumstances. Such a power was so different in its nature and scope from that of a court in adjudicating upon ordinary civil claims between plaintiffs and defendants that the civil litigation analogy had to be used cautiously.

Most civil cases, if they were not settled, did result in a judicial decision on a claim or a counterclaim which could reasonably be described as an event enabling a court to identify the winner and the loser and to make a clear cut decision on the issue of costs accordingly.

The determination of the tribunal, however, was likely in many, if not most, cases to produce an outcome which was not so clear cut.

It was not like ordinary civil litigation: it was a compulsory arbitration on quantum by reference solely to the criterion of reasonableness.

The special nature and scope of the tribunal's substantive power was reflected in the width of the discretion on costs contained in section 151(1) of the 1988 Act and in regulation 48(1) of the Copyright Tribunal Rules (SI 1989 No 1129).

It was significant that the legislation and the rules did not expressly state any general principle [about costs following the event] such as was set out in Order 62, rule 3(3) of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

It was appreciated by the draftsman of the legislation and the rules that it was not appropriate to fetter that discretion by reference to the outcome of the application; although it was, of course, legitimate for the tribunal to give and follow the guidance contained in the *Copyright Tribunal 1995 Practice Direction*: see *Copinger and Skone James on Copyright* (14th edition (1999) volume 2, paragraph B1.ii, pp412-417).

As the discretion on costs was not expressly subject to general principles, save as stated in the *Practice Direction*, or provisional statutory steer or fetter, it should be interpreted and applied as a wide discretion to be exercised judicially and reasonably by taking account of, and giving due weight to all relevant factors in a principled and proportionate fashion.

Relevant factors included an assessment of the respective positions taken by both parties on the application in the light of the outcome, both overall and on the different issues on which the tribunal had heard evidence and argument from each side: the terms of the initial proposals and the counter-proposals; the points taken by each side at the hearing; and the length of time and amount of money spent on the preparation and the presentation of the evidence and arguments on the issues. There would be some applications to the tribunal where it was possible to say that the licensing body was the winner. The tribunal might hold that the terms of payment and conditions proposed by the user had been unreasonable.

Equally, there would be some applications where it was possible to say that the user was the winner of the application, because the terms initially proposed by the licensing body had been unreasonable and the terms proposed by the user had been reasonable.

But where the tribunal determined that both the licensing body and the user had proposed terms ultimately held to be unreasonable, it was not correct to proceed on the basis that the outcome must produce a winner and a loser.

Looking at all the relevant matters in the round there had been a dispute between PPL and AEI on the amount to be paid under the statutory licence. Both parties had taken up positions which the tribunal had ultimately determined to be unreasonable: PPL had been asking for too much, AEI had been prepared to pay too little.

The outcome of the section 135D application, as determined on the basis of what was reasonable in the circumstances, had been somewhere between those competing proposals. No order as to costs was the appropriate order in the case of that application.

On the section 135E application AEI should pay PPL's costs, since it had ended up agreeing to almost all of the conditions proposed by PPL without a contested hearing in the tribunal.

The Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Mantell gave concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Eversheds; Green Sheikh & Co, Marylebone.

Court has power to alter scheme of arrangement

Fletcher and Another v Royal Automobile Club

Before Mr Justice Neuberger

[Judgment February 19]

A court had jurisdiction to alter or terminate a scheme of arrangement made pursuant to section 425(2) and (3) of the Companies Act 1985 if such an order had been obtained by fraud, notwithstanding that Parliament had not provided any formal mechanism for the review of the procedure under section 425.

Mr Justice Neuberger so held in the Chancery Division on an application under Order 14A of the Rules of the Supreme Court when dismissing, for other reasons, an action brought by the plaintiffs, Geoffrey John Fletcher and Richard O'Hea, against the Royal Automobile Club.

Mr Ian Croxford, QC and Mr Thomas Lowe for the plaintiffs; Mr Robin Potts, QC and Mr John Cone for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE NEUBERGER said that the defendants had entered into an agreement with Cendant Corporation whereby Cendant would buy the motoring service division of the defendants and the proceeds of sale would be distributed to its members.

On June 24, 1998 the defendants applied under section 425 of the Companies Act 1985 for approval of a scheme of arrangement between itself and its members.

An order sanctioning the scheme was made on July 8, 1998. That order was subsequently challenged by the plaintiffs on the basis that it had been obtained by fraud.

The defendants submitted that, in accordance with section 425(2) and (3), a scheme of arrangement, once approved by the relevant majorities and sanctioned by the court and the relevant office copy of the order having been delivered to the Registrar of Companies for registration, the scheme had statutory effect and could not thereafter be altered or terminated otherwise than as provided by the scheme itself or by a further scheme.

The defendants also submitted that the court order was simply one of the steps which was required before the scheme had effect; that once the court had sanctioned a scheme and the order had been delivered to the Registrar of Companies, the scheme took effect by virtue of the provisions of the Act and not by virtue of any order of the court.

Moreover, the Companies Act did not provide for any mechanism for the formal review of the procedure under section 425.

Mr Potts relied on the dictum of Lord Hoffmann in *Kempe v Ambassador Insurance* ([1998] 1 WLR 271, 276): "It is true that the sanction of the court is necessary for the scheme to become binding and that it takes effect when the order expressing the sanction is delivered to the registrar. But it is not enough to enable one to say that the court has by its order made the scheme. It is rather like saying that because royal assent is required for an Act of Parliament, a statute is an expression of the royal will."

His Lordship said that in the absence of authority he rejected the suggestion that a court order sanctioning a scheme could not be set aside for fraud. If Parliament had intended an order under section 425 to have the special characteristic of not being able to be set aside for fraud it would have said so.

In his Lordship's view it would be a revolting absurdity if a court were not able to set aside an order where a litigant had deliberately and systematically misled the court merely because Parliament had said what the effect of the order was.

The consequences of setting the order could be inconvenient, or could lead to innocent third parties suffering. However, those were matters that went to the court's discretion and did not go to the question of jurisdiction.

Solicitors: Class Law; Slaughter & May.

Requiring contribution from developer

Wards Construction (Medway) Ltd v Kent County Council

Before Lord Justice Henry, Lord Justice Ward and Sir Christopher Staughton

[Judgment February 5]

Where an area was being developed, section 278(2) of the Highways Act 1980 conferred express power on the highway authority to obtain a contribution from the developers for costs incurred by the highway authority in acquiring land for the purposes of highway improvements which would allow the development to proceed.

The Court of Appeal so stated, inter alia, allowing an appeal by the developers, Wards Construction (Medway) Ltd, from Judge Viscount Colville of Culross, QC, sitting as a High Court judge.

In 1973 Kent County Council produced an informal area action plan for the development of an area in Maidstone under which 1,750 houses would be built and the road network improved.

It was agreed between the planning authority, Maidstone Borough Council, the highway authority, Kent, and Wards that the developers should pay 65 per cent and the highway authority 35 per cent of the cost of acquiring the land and building a roundabout.

It was envisaged that the developers would acquire the land necessary for the construction of the roundabout, but that if they failed the highway authority would acquire it by the use of a compulsory purchase order. The developers and the landowner failed to agree a price and the highway authority compulsorily purchased it.

Then the cost of acquiring the land was £10,000 but long after the roundabout was built in 1991, the Lands Tribunal fixed the compensation to be paid by the highway authority to be £2,150,000.

In 1994 the Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by the developers against that decision and the House of Lords refused leave to appeal. Whether or not the developers would have paid £10,000 they were not prepared to pay £2,150,000.

In 1994 the developers commenced proceedings against the highway authority, claiming that the agreement to pay 65 per cent of the costs of acquisition was illegal and unenforceable. In 1996 the highway authority commenced proceedings for the developer's 65 per cent share of £2,150,000.

Orders were made in both actions for the question of enforceability of the agreement between the parties to be tried as a preliminary point. The judge found that the agreement was enforceable as a matter of administrative law but unenforceable because illegally performed under the law of contract.

Mr Malcolm Spence, QC, Mr Adrian Trevelyan Thomas and Mr Thomas Lowe for the developer; Mr Gerard Ryan, QC and Mr Rodney Stewart Smith for the highway authority.

LORD JUSTICE HENRY said that the one of the issues raised on appeal was whether section 278(2) of the Highways Act 1980 conferred express power on the highway authority to obtain a contribution from the developers for land acquisition costs incurred by the highway authority.

Section 278(1) to (4) limited section 278 agreements under which developers might be required to make contributions "towards the expenses incurred by the highway authority in executing the ... works".

The question was whether those words were limited to the cost just of doing the building and engineering works, a narrow and literal construction, or whether they also included the cost of acquisition of land where that was necessary for the execution of the works.

Section 278(5) acknowledged that for certain purposes, including road improvement, the highway authority had power to acquire land by agreement or compulsorily, and obliged the highway authority to be satisfied that any such agreement would be of benefit to the public.

The basic condition for such an agreement was satisfied where the developer would "derive a special benefit" from the incorporation in the works of "particular modifications, additions or features or were executed at a particular time or place or in a particular manner".

As the overriding principle was that such an agreement should be for the benefit of the public rather than for the benefit of the developer, it seemed to his Lordship clear that it must have been Parliament's intention when developers had been specially benefited that the contributions they should make might in proper cases be based on the total cost of the works, including acquisition costs, rather than the costs of the works excluding those costs.

The words used in section 278 were ambiguous.

The choice lay between a broad and a narrow construction. On the narrow construction, his Lordship could see no sensible reason for such a provision.

Mr Ryan made the valid historical point that developers contributing to the costs of the infrastructure necessary as a result of their development was less common then than after the reforms introduced by the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 which removed restrictions previously imposed relating to the introduction of private finance into highway improvements, particularly where that private money was necessary to allow the development to proceed.

But while recognising the change of policy, only the broad construction made sense. The broad construction, in his Lordship's view reflected the clear statutory intention.

So his Lordship would conclude that section 278 did confer express authority on the highway authority to obtain a contribution from the developer for land acquisition costs incurred by the highway authority.

The next issue was whether section 278(5) of the 1980 Act prevented the highway authority from making a compulsory purchase order under section 239 of the 1980 Act.

The judge rightly recognised section 278(5) as "the primary source of the [alleged] invalidity in the relevant part of the agreement". But despite recognising its importance, it was not entirely clear whether he concluded there was a breach of subsection (5), and if so, what it was.

The highway authority submitted that he did not appear to have decided the issue, although it was fully argued.

The developers submitted that while he nowhere stated his conclusion unequivocally, it should be concluded that he did find that section 278(5) prohibited the agreement made, but that he concluded that while section 25 of the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 barred any challenge to the validity of the compulsory purchase order or the section 278 agreement, it did not bar a claim at common law based on the fact that the agreement was performed in a manner which was unlawful.

It seemed to his Lordship that the judge did find that section 25 of the 1981 Act would be a defence to any breach of section 278(5).

While it was necessary for the judge to find whether there was a breach of section 278(5), and if so what that breach was, it might be that the reason for that apparent omission lay in the way the developers had pleaded and put their case.

In his Lordship's judgment the present case required a specific finding on the issue as to whether section 278(5) had been broken, and if so, how. As no oral evidence was called on either side, credit was not an issue.

Therefore, the Court of Appeal did not start at a marked disadvantage to the trial judge. Accordingly, his Lordship would not remit for a new trial on the preliminary point but would urge the court to decide the issue.

In the circumstances, his Lordship was quite satisfied that there was a present need to acquire the land which did not depend on the existence of the section 278 agreement, that section 278(5) was not breached and did not prohibit the use of compulsory powers, and that the developers were bound by the agreement they made.

Lord Justice Ward and Sir Christopher Staughton agreed.

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard; Kingsley Smith & Co, Chatham.

Human Rights Law Report — Strasbourg

UK has duty to provide right to vote

Matthews v United Kingdom

(Application No 24833/94)

Before L. Wildhaber, President and Judges E. Palm, L. Ferrari Bravo, G. Jörundsson, G. Ress, I. Cabral Barreto, J-P. Costa, W. Fuhrmann, K. Jungwiert, M. Fischbach, N. Vajic, J. Hedigan, W. Thomassen, M. Tsatsa-Nikolovska, T. Pantiru, K. Traja and ad hoc Judge Sir John Freeland.

Deputy Registrar: M. de Boer-Buquicchio

[Judgment February 18]

Legislation which emanated from the European Community forms part of the legislation in Gibraltar and the United Kingdom was responsible for securing the right to free elections regardless of whether the elections were domestic or to the European Parliament.

In so determining, the European Court of Human Rights, held by 15 votes to two, that there had been a violation of the applicant's right to participate in elections to choose the legislature, as guaranteed by article 3 of Protocol No 1 to the European Convention on Human Rights.

Article 3 of Protocol No 1 to the Convention provides:

"The High Contracting Parties undertake to hold free elections at reasonable intervals by secret ballot, under conditions which will ensure the free expression of the opinion of the people in the choice of the legislature."

The applicant, Ms Denise Matthews, a British citizen, was a resident of Gibraltar. She was born in 1975. In April 1994 she applied to be registered as a voter in the elections to the European Parliament.

She was told that under the terms of the EC Act on Direct Elections of 1976 Gibraltar was not included in the franchise for those elections.

The application was lodged with the European Commission of Human Rights on April 18, 1994. Having declared the application admissible, the Commission adopted a report on October 29, 1997 in which it expressed the opinion by 12 voted to five that there had been no violation of article 3 of Protocol No 1. The Commission referred the case to the Court on January 26, 1998.

Under the transitional provisions of Protocol No 11 to the Convention the case was transmitted to the Grand Chamber of the new European Court of Human Rights on the entry into force of the Protocol on November 1, 1998.

In its judgment, the European Court of Human Rights held as follows:

I Alleged violation of article 3 of Protocol No 1

It was common ground that article 3 of Protocol No.1 applied in Gibraltar.

A Whether the United Kingdom could be held responsible under the Convention for the lack of elections to the European Parliament in Gibraltar

The Court noted that acts of the European Community as such could not be challenged before it as the European Community was not a contracting party.

However, notwithstanding the transfer of competences to the European Community, contracting states remained responsible for ensuring that Convention rights were guaranteed.

Contracting states were responsible under the Convention and its Protocols for the consequences of international treaties entered into subsequent to the applicability of the Convention guarantees.

Moreover legislation emanating from the legislative process of the European Community affected the population of Gibraltar in the same way as legislation which entered the domestic legal order exclusively via the Gibraltar House of Assembly.

There was accordingly no reason why the United Kingdom should not be required to secure the rights set out in article 3 of Protocol No 1 in respect of European legislation.

It followed that the United Kingdom was responsible for securing the rights guaranteed by article 3 of Protocol No 1 regardless of whether the elections were purely domestic or European.

B Whether article 3 of Protocol No 1 was applicable to an organ such as the European Parliament

The Convention was a living instrument which had to be interpreted in the light of present-day conditions, a concept which was firmly rooted in the Court's case law, see, inter alia, *Loizidou v Turkey* (*The Times* April 15, 1995; Series A No 310 pp26-27, paragraph 71).

The mere fact that a body had not been envisaged by the drafters of the Convention could not prevent the body from falling within the scope of the Convention.

To the extent that contracting states organised common constitutional or parliamentary structures by international treaties, the Court had to take those mutually agreed structural changes into account in interpreting the Convention and its Protocols.

The question remained whether an organ such as the European Parliament fell outside the ambit of article 3 of Protocol No 1.

The Court recalled that the word "legislature" in article 3 of Protocol No 1 did not necessarily mean the national parliament: the word had to be interpreted in the light of the constitutional structure of the state in question.

In *Mathieu-Mohin and Clerfayt v Belgium* (March 2, 1987 Series A No 113, p23, paragraph 53) the 1980 constitutional reform had vested in the Flemish Council sufficient competence and powers to make it, alongside the French Community Council and the Walloon Regional Council, a constituent part of the Belgian "legislature", in addition to the House of Representatives and the Senate: see also the Commission's decision on the application of article 3 of Protocol No 1 to regional parliaments in Austria (Application No 7008/75, decision July 12, 1976, DR 6, p120) and in Germany (Application No 27311/95, decision September 11, 1995, DR 82-A, p158)).

According to the case law of the European Court of Justice, it was an inherent aspect of EC law that such law sat alongside, and indeed had precedence over, domestic law: see, for example, *Costa v ENEL* (Case 6/64) ([1964] ECR 585) and *Amministrazione delle Finanze dello Stato v Simmenthal SpA* (Case 106/77) ([1978] ECR 629). In that regard, Gibraltar was in the same position as other parts of the European Union.

The Court reiterated that article 3 of Protocol No 1 enshrined a characteristic of an effective political democracy: see *Mathieu-Mohin and Clerfayt* (at p22, paragraph 47) and *United Communist Party of Turkey and Others v Turkey* (January 30, 1998, Reports of Judgments and Decisions 1998-I, pp22-22, paragraph 45).

The Court thus considered that to accept the United Kingdom Government's contention that the sphere of activities of the European Parliament fell outside the scope of article 3 of Protocol No 1 would risk undermining one of the fundamental tools by which "effective political democracy" could be maintained.

It followed that no reason had been made out which could justify excluding the European Parliament from the ambit of the elections referred to in article 3 of Protocol No 1 on the ground that it was supranational, rather than a purely domestic, representative organ.

C Whether the European Parliament, at the relevant time, had the characteristics of a "legislature" in Gibraltar

In determining whether the European Parliament fell to be considered as the "legislature", or part of it, in Gibraltar for the purposes of article 3 of Protocol No 1, the Court had to bear in mind the sui generis nature of the European Community, which did not follow in every respect the pattern common in many states of a more or less strict division of powers between the executive and the legislature.

Rather, the legislative process in the EC involved the participation of the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission.

The Court also had to ensure that "effective political democracy" was properly served in the territories to which the Convention applied, and in that context, it had to have regard not solely to the strictly legislative powers which a body had, but also to that body's role in the overall legislative process.

The Court then examined the powers of the European Parliament in the context of the European Community and concluded that the Parliament was sufficiently involved both in the specific legislative processes leading to the passage of legislation under articles 189b and 189c of the EC Treaty, and in the general democratic supervision of the activities of the European Community to constitute part of the "legislature" of Gibraltar for the purposes of article 3 of Protocol No 1.

D Application of article 56 of the Convention

Article 56 of the Convention (formerly article 63) provided a state with the possibility to "extend to all or any of the territories for whose international relations it is responsible" Convention rights (paragraph 1).

The provisions of the Convention "shall be applied in such territories with due regard, however, to local requirements" (paragraph 3).

The Court recalled that in *Tyrer v United Kingdom* (April 25, 1978, Series A, No 26, pp18-19, paragraph 38) it found that before the former article 63.3 could apply, there would have to be "positive and conclusive proof of a requirement".

Local requirements, if they referred to the specific legal status of a territory, had to be of a compelling nature if they were to justify the application of article 56 of the Convention.

In the present case, the Government did not contend that the status of Gibraltar was such as to give rise to "local requirements" which could limit the application of the Convention, and the Court found no indication that there were any such requirements.

E Whether the absence of elections to the European Parliament in Gibraltar in 1994 was compatible with article 3 of Protocol No 1.

The Court emphasised that the choice of the electoral system by which the free expression of the opinion of the people in the choice of the legislature was ensured was a matter in which states enjoyed a wide margin of appreciation.

However, in the case before it the applicant had been denied any opportunity to express her opinion in the choice of members of the European Parliament, despite the fact that, as the Court had found, legislation that emanated from the European Community formed part of the legislation in Gibraltar and the applicant was directly affected by it.

The very essence of the applicant's right to vote to choose the legislature, as guaranteed under article 3 of Protocol No 1, had been denied.

It followed that there had had been a violation of that provision. Judges Sir John Freeland and Jungwiert dissented.

II Other matters

The Court was of the unanimous view that it was not necessary to consider the complaints under article 14 of the Convention (prohibition of discrimination) in conjunction with article 3 of Protocol No 1, and awarded the applicant £45,000 by way of fees and expenses from which were to be deducted FFr18,510 paid by way of legal aid for fees and travel and subsistence expenses before the Court in Strasbourg.

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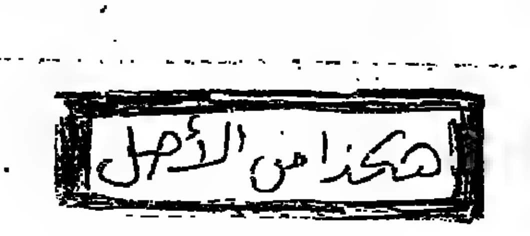
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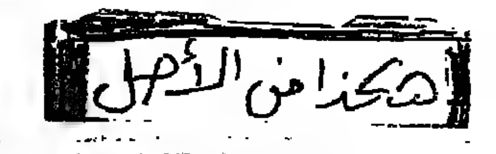
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SIMON BROOKE WEBB

Rocketing charges: Dr Neville Young and his wife Mary, whose rent on their Kensington flat, left, has been increased by more than 250 per cent: "Existence is miserable now," he says

When rents skyrocket . . .

Rachel Kelly meets the tenants faced with huge increases despite new controls imposed by the Housing Minister

Ever since the Government introduced new limits on fair rent increases last month to help private tenants who have been facing exceptionally high rises, landlords have been cursing.

Geoff Cutting, from the Small Landlords Association, describes the move as "the very worst of the worst of old Labour", and an entirely unwarranted government intervention in the private rented sector.

From now on, increases will be limited to the retail price index plus 7.5 per cent when rent officers and rent assessment committees decide on a new rent as leases become due. Thereafter, future rises will be the retail price index plus 5 per cent.

You might assume that this was good news for tenants. These controls should restore some of the protection that tenants enjoyed from the vagaries of the open market. But many argue that they have already been subject to such intolerable rent rises that the reforms are too little, too late.

Neville and Mary Young live at the top of Allen House in Kensington, West London, and are typical of the people who enjoyed a protected tenancy. Dr Young was a GP for 30 years and has lived in Kensington all his life.

"This is an absolute disaster," he says. "The legislation is not retrospective. The point is that most landlords have already introduced such monstrous rises that many of the 250,000 statutory tenants will be made homeless."

The legislation was introduced on February 1, but first mooted in July last year. Landlords had a crucial six-month window in which to increase rents before controls came into effect.

"Karen Buck, the Labour MP for Regent's Park and Kensington North, described the legislation as a wonderful present," says Dr Young. "In fact, it is more like a kick in the teeth."

Protected tenancies were the result of rent controls brought in after the First World War for fear of landlords becoming bogeymen. What was to stop landlords from charging overly high rents by exploiting the scarcity of property? Controls were stepped up in the Fifties and successive Rent Acts followed in the Sixties and Seventies.

Such tenants cannot be moved out of their properties during their lifetime thanks to "security of tenure", assuming that they continue to pay the rent and their rents are set by rent officers. These are government employees who decide the level of a so-called "fair rent" by calculating the market rent, which is then adjusted to take into account the availability of local property to rent (or what is known as scarcity). Rents have soared since the 1988 Housing Act, undoubtedly creating hardship. The Act created assured shorthold tenancies under which a landlord could eject a tenant after six months. The expansion in the market that has followed has given rent officers much more evidence of what rents are actually being charged.

Landlords could compare the rents that they were now getting on the open market, flushed by the end of regulation. Naturally, they started to apply for rent increases, arguing that there was no longer any scarcity, so fair rents should be effectively the same as market rents.

For the Youngs, such rents have been huge. Before the legislation was introduced by Hilary Armstrong, the Housing Minister, his landlord, Gander Holdings, asked for an increase of more than 250 per cent.

There is nothing that the legislation can do to protect them from such rises, which may well make them homeless. The Youngs are waiting for a decision from the fair rent officer on what the rent should be.

Should he decide in favour of the landlord, the Youngs' rent will rocket from £2,100 a quarter to £7,500 a quarter. Two years ago, the rent went up 160 per cent. A spokesman for Gander Holdings said: "The rent increase is in line with market rents."

"This is my family home," says Dr Young. "My mother moved in here 56 years ago, and I've been here ever since. The landlord offered us a two-bedroom flat in Bristol, but we don't want to live there. All our friends and family are here. This is our home. Existence is miserable now, and the worry of the rent is very isolating. But this is not just our problem. The retired are being crucified in this respect."

The tenants most affected are in London and the South East, especially in Kensington and Chelsea with its plethora of mansion blocks, and those on the Cadogan Estate near Sloane Square.

Neville Bines, who lives in Earsby Street in Hammersmith, used to pay £4,700 annually to his landlords, Worship House Estates. They applied to increase the rent to £31,000: the rent officer assessed it at £7,750 a year but the landlord objected. The assessment committee then put the rent at £8,250, a 75 per cent increase, in December. The new rules are too late for him.

"My wife and I are in our late seventies, early eighties. We lived on a fixed income . . . I have written to the Housing Minister but have not had a reply. In the meantime, I have applied for housing benefit. I do not know what the answer will be but I fear the worst," he says.

The rules are also too late for Elena Brewington, from Evelyn Gardens in South Kensington. She wrote to the *The Times* about her plight. "As a result of the delay in the rent-capping legislation of the Government, my landlord, the Grainger Trust, and its subsidiary, N&D Limited, has had two years to put in an application for a 300 per cent rent increase on this flat, from £6,400 a year to £19,000 a year."

The tenants argue that the Housing Minister should take into consideration the repercussions on those who have seen their rents increase by far more than 25 per cent at the last review. One solution is that the period between reviews be longer than two years, thus diluting the worst of the rises.

Even landlords' representatives admit that some tenants, who have counted on paying far lower rents, will suffer hardship. Leo Hickish, from Strutt & Parker, representing landlords, says: "While this level of hardship is regrettable, we believe that the cost of relieving it should not be borne by private individuals. It is a social cost and as such is the responsibility of government."

Is the Housing Minister listening?

Switched on by power

A couple plan to turn a sub-station into their home, reports **Ben Wakeham**

AN AMATEUR builder has sold his £120,000 house to move into an electricity substation. Richard Curtis has plans under way to convert a disused powerhouse into his dream home.

He and his wife Anne hit upon the idea while out walking in their village of Cleadon in Sunderland when they saw the shabby station.

They fell in love with it immediately and managed to talk planners and electricity bosses into parting with the £30,000 building. The electricity box, packed with transformers supplying 11,000 volts of power to the village, will be turned into a stylish four-bedroomed palace.

"We are very excited about the plans," Mr Curtis says. "We had to move house because of my wife's job changes, but we couldn't believe our luck when we saw the sub-station. It was perfect. I'm a bit of an amateur builder and my wife is an artist and we've always had a dream of designing our own home."

He said that the plans drawn up by Charles Greenall, an architect, had been designed to enhance the character and create a calming environment. "People thought it was crazy at first because the idea of a powerhouse strikes up some weird images, but once they saw it and saw our plans for the place they thought it was great.

"Once we had convinced the council and agreed to have another smaller distributor box on the site of our home, it was in the bag. It was due to be demolished, so we were just in time and the electricity company was pleased that we saved it forking out for the demolition fees."

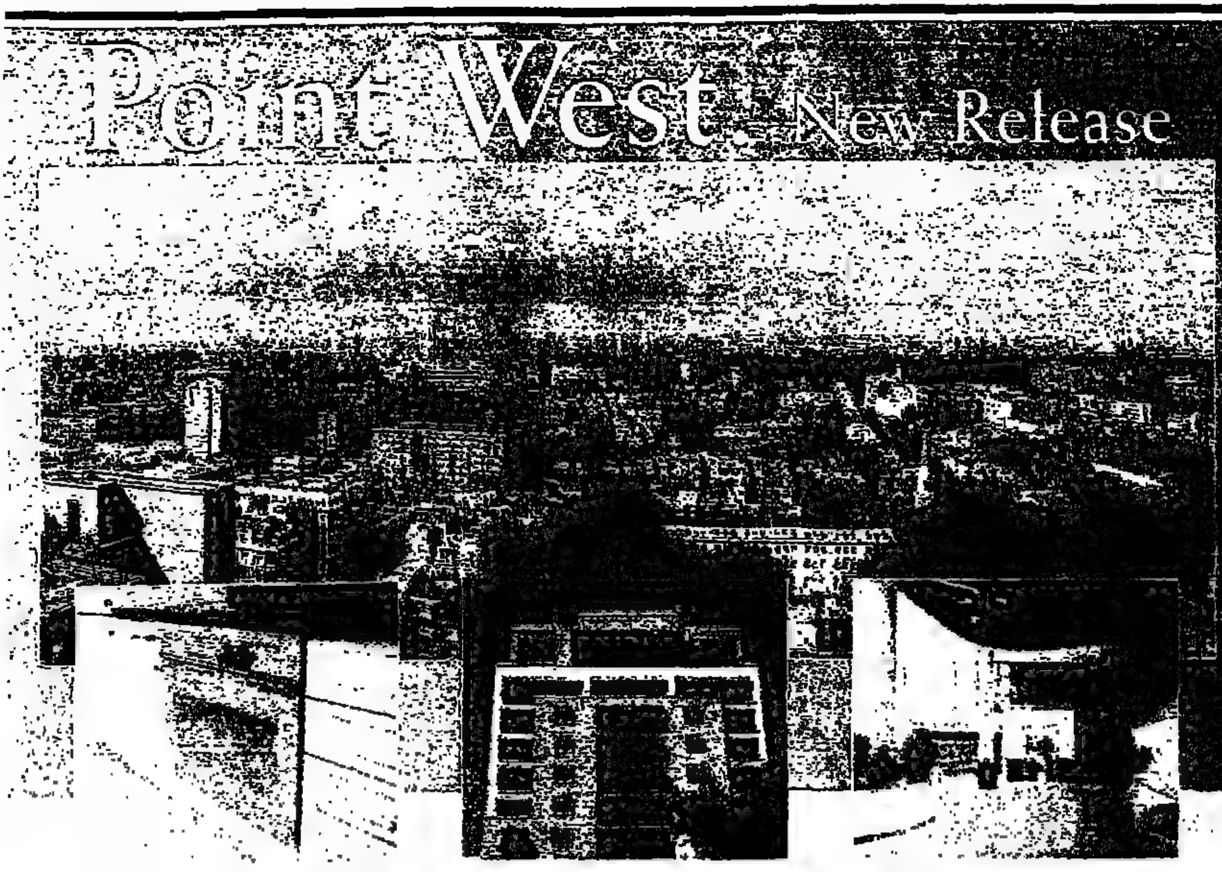
PLANS include a tall dining room with balcony that will lead to a spiral staircase to the roof, screened with glass. Planners have compared the conversion to the work of the late Frank Lloyd Wright, one of the world's most renowned architects.

If everything goes to plan the couple and their three children should move in by the summer, but Mrs Curtis admits that the rest of the family took some convincing. "The children thought we had lost it, a mid-life crisis or something, and they were all leaving for home," she says, "but when they saw the ultra-modern design and swish interior, and of course their bedrooms, they changed their minds. We are all very excited now and really cannot wait to move in. I'm sure that it is everyone's dream to create their own home."

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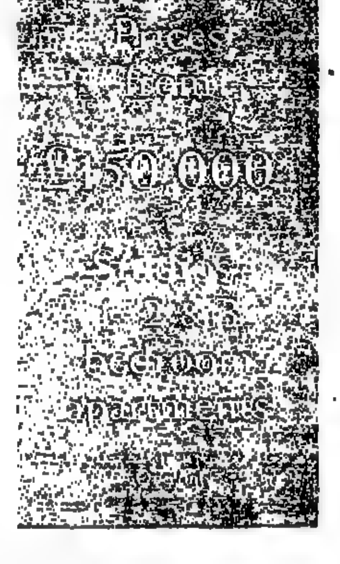
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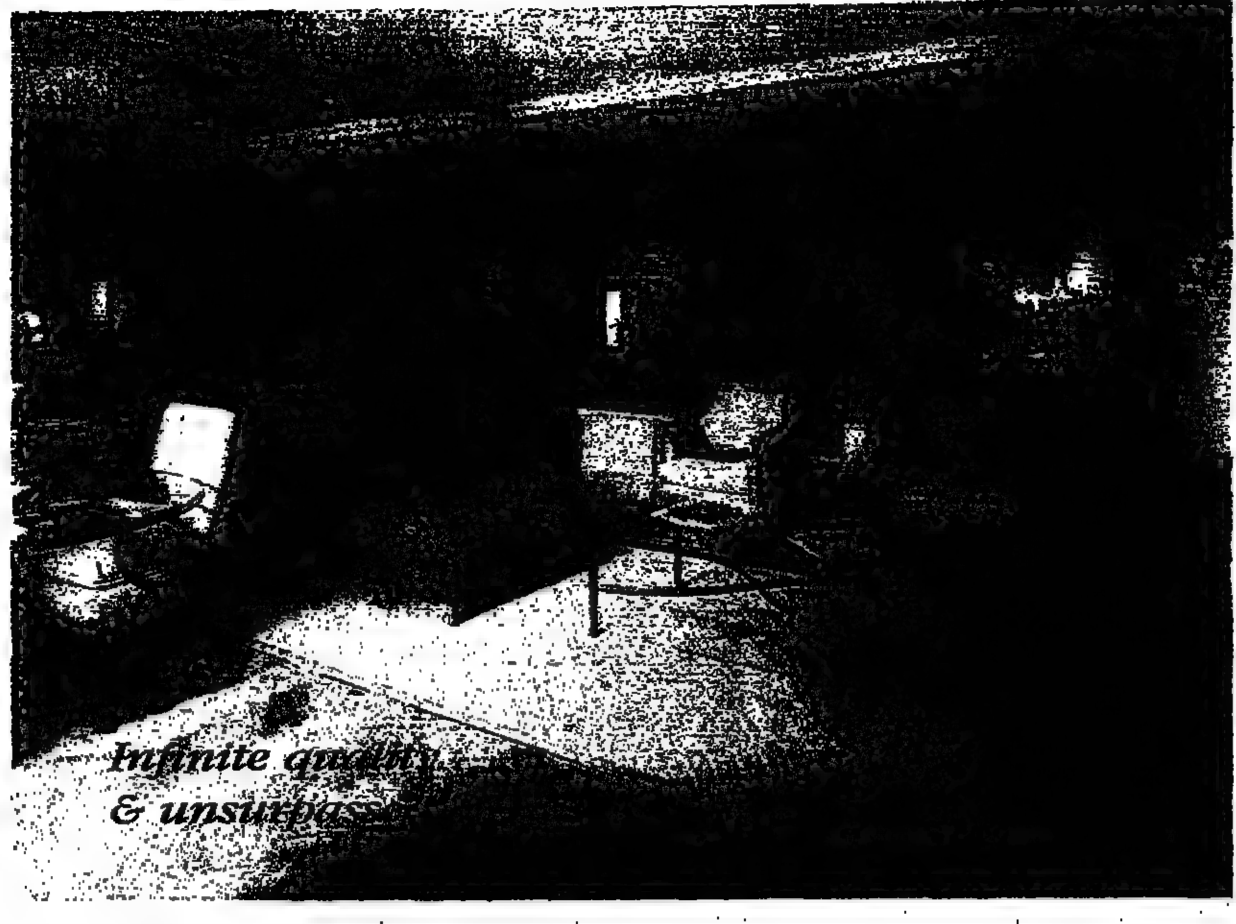
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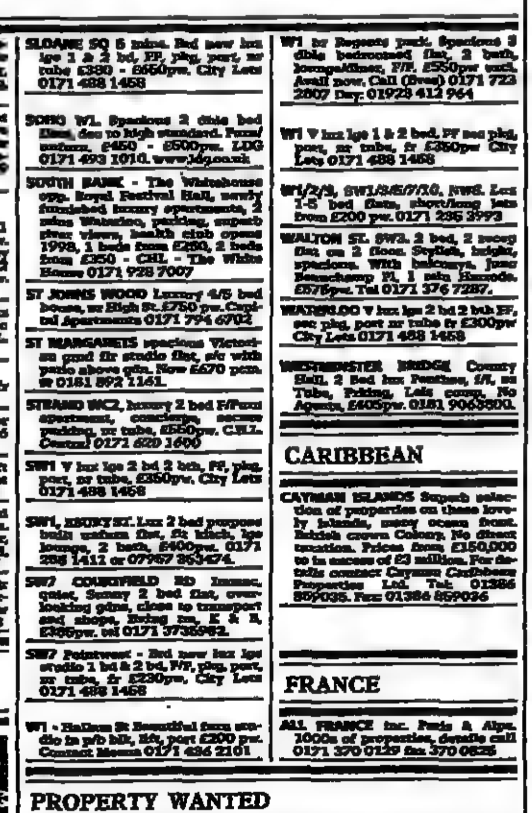
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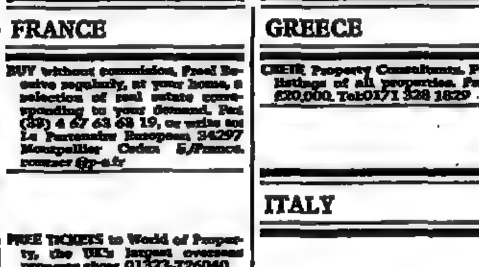
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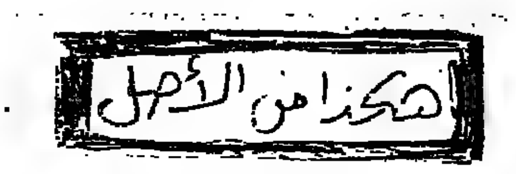
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Richard Evans sees how the worst scenarios would be handled at the Festival

Cheltenham covers all eventualities

IT IS the scenario that no one wants to think about. A horse collapses and dies in the winner's enclosure at the Cheltenham Festival or, even worse, a loose runner somehow manages to jump onto a members' lawn packed with thousands of spectators. What happens then?

Edward Gillespie, managing director at the headquarters of jump racing, is paid to think the unthinkable and yesterday, for the first time, Cheltenham staged a dress rehearsal for some of the most dreaded sights involving horses any racecourse could face.

With rain all but obscuring the upper reaches of Cleeve Hill, a team of vets, horse ambulancemen, racecourse staff and officials, led by Philip Arkwright, clerk of the course, spent two hours working out how they would cope.

On each of the Festival's three days around 120 horses will negotiate an ever changing combination of the 24 fences or 15 flights of hurdles which are dotted around the 50-acre course. An accident involving one or more of those runners could happen anywhere.

With Arkwright directing operations via radio from the top of the grandstand, John Codner, the senior vet at Cheltenham, and Sebastian Garner, who provides two horse ambulances for the Festival, reach the scene. Groundstaff erect green canvas screens to enable the vet to work away from the public gaze. The biggest problems come from the driving rain and wind, which all but blows over the screens.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Cheltenham's clerk of the course, Philip Arkwright, right, discusses casualty management with senior vet John Codner

The second scenario is in front of the stands which will hold 59,000 on Gold Cup day. A race has just finished and the runners are returning along the horse-walk when one collapses — near the special platform used by racegoers in wheelchairs. "It is a pig of a situation," Arkwright says.

For the purpose of the exercise, it is assumed that the horse has died. How does the horse ambulance get close to the body and load it on board without spectators in the upper levels of the grandstand seeing the heart-breaking scene? And what about the other horses whose route back to the unsaddling enclosure has been blocked? The radios crackle back and forth until solutions are agreed.

With that horror over, they move back 100 yards and are told that a horse has fallen — and died — at the last flight of hurdles in the home straight on the first circuit of the Stayers' Hurdle. The radio crackles again as the imaginary race continues. "Vet to Knacker. Don't forget, you have to wait for the next circuit." The by-now drenched team make their way to the winner's enclosure where a horse has collapsed and died . . .

There was not a spectator in sight yesterday, but as those dreaded screens made yet another appearance one could only imagine the desperation felt by a Festival crowd and a luckless owner whose tears of joy would suddenly be transformed into tears of grief. Hopefully, this will prove to be a dress rehearsal without a first night.

Gillespie explained: "We call it casualty management with the focus on the horses. We are doing this to ensure we are wholly confident about dealing with the normal, and as confident as possible of dealing with the abnormal.

"It is the first time we have had a rehearsal like this, but there is nothing better than doing these things on the ground so that people can think things through and learn to cope with the unexpected. In the past we have rehearsed emergency evacuations and dealing with difficult situations with the crowd. It is only sensible to rehearse something that involves the most unpredictable element — the racehorse."

Today's cards at Chepstow and Wetherby are both subject to morning inspections after heavy rainfall yesterday. Wetherby will inspect at 7.30am with Chepstow following suit 15 minutes later. Rodger Farrant, clerk of the course at Chepstow, said: "We have called the inspection following continuous heavy rain. By mid-afternoon a further half an inch had fallen to add to the one inch which fell over the weekend."

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Catterick

Going: good to soft, becoming soft

2.00 (2m hdle) 1, **MISCONDUCT** (A Maguire, 4-11 fav); 2, **Madge McSplash** (L Wyer, 33-1); 3, **Carol Again** (G F Ryan, 50-1). ALSO RAN: 9-1 Back To Bavaria, 9 My Desperado, 16 Armenjam, Cruz Santa, 20 Supreme Target (4th), Tangshan (6th), 25 Freckles, 33 The Grey Bay (5th), 50 Little Kenny, Singing Scotty, 66 All Our Blessings, Premiere Foulee. 15 ran. 5l, 9l, 1l, 8l, 1l. Mrs Merrita Jones at Lambourn. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £4.40, £7.10. DF: £14.00. CSF: £24.62. Tricast: £401.05.

2.30 (2m hdle) 1, **WILD HADEER** (B Grattan, 33-1); 2, **Willyelkra** (F J Flood, 11-4); 3, **The Lambton Worm** (G F Ryan, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 9-4 fav Es Go (5th), 5 Meldrum Park, 6 Wrangel (6th), 7 Bawara, 14 Academy, Unmu, 16 Paint It Black, 20 Canadian Fantasy (4th), 25 Gwespyr, 66 Behari. 13 ran. NR: Moving Arrow, Parlez Moi d'Amour. 5l, 2l, 2½l, 7l, 15l. John R Upson at Adstone. Tote: £52.40; £9.60, £1.30, £3.70. DF: £176.40. CSF: £129.08.

3.00 (2m 3f ch) 1, **BANKER COUNT** (A P McCoy, 10-11 fav, Thunderer's nap); 2, **Tatatharb** (W Marston, 25-1); 3, **Echo's of Dawn** (R Supple, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 7-4 Charming Admiral (4th), 20 Fan of Estruval (5th), 25 Meradi (6th), 33 Drumdonna, 50 Brave Man, Faustinuce Lady, Just Ned, Marchant Mrrp. 11 ran. NR: Jessolle, Onyoutown, Prime Style. 2l, hd, sh hd, 23l, dist. M W Easterby at Sheriff Hutton. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £5.30, £1.40. DF: £13.40. CSF: £26.24.

3.30 (2m 3f hdle) 1, **TIFASI** (W Marston, 10-1); 2, **Real Fire** (R Wilkinson, 25-1); 3, **Wynbury Flyer** (A Maguire, 11-2 fav); 4, **Connel's Croft** (R Thornton, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 6-1 Clarrotaan (5th), 8 Jago, Kind Prince, King's Hussar, Patcander (6th), 14 Mill Orchid, Peep O' Day, 20 Britannia Mills, 25 Lord Frederick, Murradi, 33 Birthplace, Fortune Hopper, 50 Arrange A Game. 17 ran. NR: Dunston Heath, Lenacar Lane, Members Welcome, Pancreas Lord. 2½l, 7l, nk, 1l, 3l. M Wilkinson at Banbury. Tote: £13.70; £1.80, £1.60, £11.20, £5.10. DF: £256.00. CSF: £225.96. Tricast: £1,409.02.

4.00 (3m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, **TO-DAY TO-DAY** (R Supple, 10-1); 2, **Polar King** (M Foster, 6-1); 3, **I'm The Man** (L Cooper, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 5-2 fav Shardanta, 7 Donnegale (4th), 10 Parting The Waves, Tipping Tina, 16 Chanson d'Amour, 20 Angry Native, Bonny Rigg (5th), Ceejayell. 11 ran. NR: Aztec Flyer, Boundtohonour, Branch End, Far Finnish, Highfield Gent. ¾l, 1½l, hd, dist. L Lungo at Carrutherstown. Tote: £12.00; £3.90, £3.10, £3.10. DF: £42.30. CSF: £67.39. Tricast: £312.16.

4.30 (2m ch) 1, **PRINCE OF SAINTS** (B Harding, 7-2); 2, **Golden Hello** (Mr J P McNamara, 5-1); 3, **Minster Glory** (A P McCoy, 7-4 fav). ALSO RAN: 11-4 Tails Clock (5th), 14 Tapatch (4th), 50 Arthur Bee. 6 ran. NR: Zaiad. 7l, 7l, 3l, 15l. M Hammond at Middleham. Tote: £4.80; £1.80, £1.10. DF: £17.10. CSF: £18.28.

5.00 (2m flat) 1, **ERRAND BOY** (S Durack, 5-1); 2, **Ireland's Eye** (C Rafter, 7-2); 3, **Regal Island** (T Hagger, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 9-4 fav Supreme Fortune (4th), 7 Shady Suspect (6th), 16 Battle Creek Boy, One For All, 20 Cockerel Boy, Cromwell (5th), 25 Just Dessie, Lucky Lambrini, Remani, 33 Backend Charlie, Nice Balance. 14 ran. NR: Camair Crusader, What A Topper. 3¼l, 12l, 2l, 1½l, 12l. Mrs S Smith at Bingley. Tote: £6.80; £3.00, £2.30, £2.80. DF: £11.40. CSF: £22.07.

Jackpot: Not won - pool of £35,725.37 carried over to Wolverhampton today.

Placepot: £847.00. **Quadpot:** £50.50.

Leicester

Going: soft, becoming heavy

2.20 (3m 4f 110yd ch) 1, **Catherine's Way** (M A Fitzgerald, 5-1); 2, **Oriental Style** (8-1); 3, **The Hatcher** (11-1). Sister Gale 9-2 fav. 11 ran. 22l, 3l. Andrew Turnell. Tote: £3.70; £2.70, £1.60, £1.50. DF: £21.30. CSF: £39.47. Tricast: £379.10.

2.50 (2m 7f 110yd ch) 1, **Ellagirl** (M A Fitzgerald, 11-2); 2, **Madam Muck** (11-4 jt-fav); 3, **Jazzman** (4-1). Liver Bird (4th) 11-4 jt-fav. 6 ran. 8l, 5l. T Casey. Tote: £5.00; £2.00, £2.00. DF: £4.10. CSF: £19.41.

3.20 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, **Red Bean** (R Johnson, 7-1); 2, **Flapjack Lad** (7-2 fav); 3, **Brownrath King** (6-1). 7 ran. 13l, 10l. Simon Earle. Tote: £15.50; £8.40, £1.90. DF: £8.70. CSF: £25.81.

3.50 (2m 7f 110yd ch) 1, **Lothian Commander** (G Bradley, 8-1); 2, **Samuel Wilderspin** (4-9 fav); 3, **Sweep Clean** (7-1). 5 ran. Sh hd, dist. D McCain. Tote: £13.00; £1.20, £1.10. DF: £3.20. CSF: £10.66.

4.20 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, **Romancer** (C Llewellyn, 13-8); 2, **Strong Vision** (5-4 fav). 5 ran. Hd. N Twiston-Davies. Tote: £2.40; £1.00, £6.40. DF: £3.60. CSF: £3.98.

4.50 (2m 1f ch) 1, **Centaur Express** (M A Fitzgerald, 9-4 jt-fav); 2, **Northern Saddler** (9-4 jt-fav); 3, **Boulevard Bay** (5-2). 5 ran. NR: Colonel Blazer. 18l, 20l. A Streeter. Tote: £2.40; £1.90, £1.60. DF: £2.00. CSF: £7.11.

Placepot: £17.20. **Quadpot:** £3.10.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

2.10 (1m 5f) 1, **Bigwig** (Mr I Mongan, 10-11 fav); 2, **Catchment** (6-1); 3, **Shanghai Lil** (9-2). 12 ran. NR: Double Flight. 3l, 3l. G L Moore. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £3.60, £1.80. DF: £9.10. CSF: £7.49. Tricast: £23.50.

2.40 (5f) 1, **Bowcliffe Grange** (J Fanning, 4-1); 2, **Hail Tone** (7-4 fav); 3, **Dande Times** (10-1). 7 ran. 1l, 2l. D Chapman. Tote: £5.10; £2.50, £1.10. DF: £5.50. CSF: £10.05.

3.10 (1m 2f) 1, **Sheer Native** (K Sked, 8-15 fav); 2, **Wild Nettle** (14-1); 3, **Mantles Princess** (4-1). 8 ran. 18l, 1¼l. B Hills. Tote: £2.00; £1.00, £1.40, £4.10. DF: £5.10. CSF: £9.32.

3.40 (1m 2f) 1, **Powder River** (Dean McKeown, 6-1); 2, **Philistar** (9-1); 3, **Sick As A Parrot** (16-1). Totom 3-1 fav. 14 ran. 2½l, 1¼l. K Burke. Tote: £8.70; £6.10, £3.80, £3.50. DF: £30.10. Tote Trifecta: £4,443.20 - part won (pool of £3,817.41 carried forward to Wolverhampton 5.15 today). CSF: £58.03. Tricast: £788.30.

4.10 (2m) 1, **Sleeve Silk** (J Quinn, evens fav); 2, **Hank** (7-2); 3, **Padauk** (5-1). 6 ran. Sh hd, 3l. W Musson. Tote: £1.80; £1.10, £1.40. DF: £3.10. CSF: £1.00.

4.40 (1m) 1, **Castles Burning** (J Weaver, 4-1); 2, **Mister Tricky** (4-1); 3, **Nautical Warning** (5-2). Compton Aika (5th) 9-4 fav. 7 ran. 2½l, ½l. C Cyzer. Tote: £4.70; £2.00, £3.60. DF: £10.30. CSF: £19.57.

Placepot: £76.00. **Quadpot:** £36.30.

WETHERBY

THUNDERER

2.00 Ilahabad. 2.30 Ardent Scout. 3.00 SCOTMAIL LAD (nap). 3.30 Foundry Lane. 4.00 Kingennie. 4.35 Brighter Shade. 5.05 Eastern Project.

GOING: SOFT (HEAVY IN PLACES) 7.30AM INSPECTION — SIS

2.00 HAREWOOD NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,723: 2m) (10 runners)

1 F421 CHIEF WARDANCE 11 (D,F,S) Mrs S Lamyman 5-11-7 R Farrant 89
2 1045 NOSHINANNIKIN 11 (G,S) M W Easterby 5-11-7 R Thornton 65
3 BEAUCHAMP KING 144F G A Butler 6-11-2 M A Fitzgerald —
4 -00P CAROMISU 75 J Mackie 6-11-2 R Supple —
5 P-53 LOBBINGALONG 140 N Richards 5-11-2 A Dobbin —
6 /10/ MISTER GIGI 801 (D,F,G) Miss M Rowland 8-11-2 A S Smith —
7 23-0 TEMPO 68 (D,G,S) M Pitt 7-11-2 F Leahy —
8 221 ILAHABAD 13 (S) J FitzGerald 4-10-13 P Niven [illegible]
9 245 SUPER NOMAD 15 M W Easterby 4-10-8 C McCormack (3) —
10 8 TAAKID 14 M Hammond 4-10-8 B Harding 13

7-4 Beauchamp King, 2-1 Ilahabad, 9-2 Chief Wardance, 10-1 Lobbingalong, 14-1 Noshinannikin, 16-1 Taakid, 20-1 Tempo, Super Nomad, 33-1 others.

2.30 MARK COCKER NOVICES CHASE
(£3,841: 3m 1f) (4)

1 31P3 ARDENT SCOUT 25 (CD,G,S) Mrs S Smith 7-11-12 S Durack 95
2 1P11 NIKI DEE 25 (C,G,S) P Beaumont 9-11-12 R Supple [illegible]
3 4U30 THE OTHER MAN 33 Miss L Siddall 9-11-3 T Siddall (5) 63
4 6523 GRAIN D'ESTRUVAL 81 (S) M Hammond 5-10-7 B Harding 58

Evens Niki Dee, 2-1 Ardent Scout, 3-1 Grain D'Estruval, 50-1 The Other Man.

3.00 MICKLETHWAITE HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,819: 2m 4f 110yd) (6)

1 2FR4 KING PIN 25 (D,F,G,S) P Beaumont 7-11-10 B Grattan (3) 39
2 4F3F SHU GAA 84 (G,S) J Mackie 6-11-9 R Supple —
3 6-00 EXECUTIVE DESIGN 88 (G,S) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-8 P Niven 76
4 4115 SCOTMAIL LAD 25 (CD,F,G,S) G M Moore 5-11-6 N Horrocks (5) 90
5 1-10 MARY'S FEELINGS 78 (F,S) M Hammond 8-10-9 B Harding 88
6 3040 APOLLO'S DAUGHTER 18 (F,G) J Goulding 11-10-0 L Cooper (7) [illegible]

2-1 Scotmail Lad, 11-4 Mary's Feelings, 4-1 King Pin, 9-2 Executive Design, 10-1 Shu Gaa, 16-1 Apollo's Daughter.

3.30 HELMSLEY NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£5,670: 2m) (5)

1 2131 BALLESWHIDDEN 15 (CD,G,S) R Fahey 7-11-10 E Callaghan 109
2 U2F1 FOUNDRY LANE 37 (CD,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-8 Mr A Dempsey (3) 115
3 1112 BARNBURGH BOY 11 (D,G,S) T Easterby 5-11-7 L Wyer [illegible]
4 2113 HANG'EM OUT TO DRY 16 (D,G,S) E James 8-10-7 G Bradley 117
5 2521 CASTLETOWN COUNT 39 (G,S) M W Easterby 7-10-6 R Thornton 118

2-1 Foundry Lane, 9-4 Barnburgh Boy, 3-1 Balleswhidden, Hang'em Out To Dry, 6-1 Castletown Count.

4.00 HOECHST ROUSSEL PANACUR EBF MARES 'NH' NOVICES HURDLE (£3,144: 2m 4f 110yd) (4)

1 4111 JOWOODY 11 (S) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-0 G Lee [illegible]
2 0143 KINGENNIE 67 (D,S) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-0 P Niven 12
3 -030 ASKRIGG VENTURE 92 M Hammond 6-10-7 B Harding 77
4 33-0 TRIPLE TRIUMPH 16 J Neville 6-10-7 M A Fitzgerald —

4-7 Jowoody, 5-2 Kingennie, 7-1 Askrigg Venture, 16-1 Triple Triumph.

4.35 EAST KESWICK HANDICAP CHASE
(£5,573: 2m 4f 110yd) (5)

1 425U BRIGHTER SHADE 2 (CD,F,S) Mrs M Reveley 9-11-10 P Niven 112
2 3042 GOLDEN HELLO 66 (C,F,G,S) T Easterby 8-11-9 Mr A Dempsey (3) [illegible]
3 -3P4 BACK BAR 11 (D,G,S) D McCain 11-11-7 A C Coyle (5) 86
4 10U3 HAG'S WAY 30 (B,G,S) J Howard Johnson 9-10-7 Mr J P McNamara (5) 111
5 SP0U MONAUGHTY MAN 4 (S) E Cahill 13-10-0 Mr O Fagan —

6-4 Golden Hello, 9-4 Brighter Shade, 5-2 Hag's Way, 10-1 Back Bar, 100-1 Monaughty Man.

5.05 ASKHAM BRYAN HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,443: 2m) (9)

1 3F55 SILLY MONEY 39 (D,G) T Easterby 8-11-13 L Wyer 91
2 2133 EASTERN PROJECT 18 (D,F,S) M Hammond 5-11-9 B Harding 95
3 3001 MUTASARRIF 15 (F,G) J Dodds 6-11-5 S Melrose (7) [illegible]
4 1P-4 SWANDALE FLYER 44F (G) N Bycroft 7-11-0 G F Ryan (3) 85
5 3604 RANGER SLOANE 6 (D,G,S) G Fierro 7-11-0 R Farrant 86
6 -428 WYNYARD LADY 44 (D,F,S) Mrs M Reveley 8-10-10 P Niven 97
7 5306 EARP 27 (B,D,S) F Murtagh 7-10-5 A Dobbin 92
8 0604 COME AND RUN 62 M W Easterby 5-10-4 C McCormack (3) 58
9 4600 ERINY 39 (D,F,S) J J Quinn 10-10-0 A Maguire 85

7-2 Mutasarrif, 9-2 Eastern Project, 11-2 Wynyard Lady, 6-1 Ranger Sloane, 13-2 Silly Money, Swandale Flyer, 8-1 Earp, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: T Easterby, 32 winners from 144 runners, 22.2%; Mrs M Reveley, 36 from 174, 20.7%; J Mackie, 3 from 15, 20.0%; Mrs S Smith, 19 from 103, 18.4%; P Beaumont, 10 from 60, 16.7%; G M Moore, 7 from 45, 15.6%.

JOCKEYS: A Dempsey, 4 winners from 6 rides, 66.7%; M A Fitzgerald, 4 from 14, 28.6%; S Durack, 8 from 30, 26.7%; L Wyer, 43 from 163, 26.4%; P Niven, 27 from 133, 20.3%; A Maguire, 13 from 66, 19.7%.

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER

2.10 Rouge. 2.40 Elite Hope. 3.10 Flying Officer. 3.40 King Priam. 4.10 Pasha. 4.45 C-Harry. 5.15 Hill Farm Dancer.

GOING: STANDARD — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE — SIS

2.10 'YOU MUST BE JOKING JULIA - HALF CENTURY' MAIDEN STAKES
(£2,843: 1m 100yd) (13 runners)

101 03-0 BANKA 51 (V) K Comerford 5-9-12 A Nicholls (5) 13
102 FRISKY SILK R Guest 5-9-7 R Cochrane 8
103 3-22 ROUGE 16 (BF) J Leigh 4-9-7 Dean McKeown 9
104 CUMBRIAN BLUE T Easterby 3-8-8 R Winston (3) 6
105 3-8 GOODBYE GOLDSTONE 33 (BF) T Naughton 3-8-8 F Norton 3
106 00- HETRA HAWK 123 W Musson 3-8-8 R Price 1
107 00 MARTON MERE 19 T Easterby 3-8-8 L Charnock 10
108 06- PRAIRIE WOLF 128 M Bell 3-8-8 M Fenton 11
109 6623 STATE WIND 7 (B) N Littmoden 3-8-8 J Quinn 2
110 4 TUFAMORE 11 K Burke 3-8-8 N Callan (5) 7
111 EVENING SCENT J Hetherton 3-8-3 N Carlisle 4
112 54 FLOSSY 19 C Thornton 3-8-3 Dale Gibson 5
113 5- GEVITY 128 W Jarvis 3-8-3 Martin Dwyer 12

6-4 Rouge, 4-1 Goodbye Goldstone, 6-1 State Wind, 8-1 Tufamore, 10-1 Gevity, 12-1 Prairie Wolf, 14-1 Flossy, 16-1 others.

2.40 LINDA & LESLEY NEARLY A CENTURY CLAIMING STAKES (Div I: £1,665: 7f) (8)

201 3112 ELITE HOPE 7 (BF,CD,G) N Tinkler 7-9-2 G Carter 8
202 0004 BEST QUEST 8 (D,G) K Burke 4-8-13 N Callan (5) 3
203 -415 DRYAD 25 (C) N Littmoden 4-8-12 T G McLaughlin 4
204 02-2 SAMWAR 25 (V,D,G) Mrs N Macauley 7-8-11 P McCabe 2
205 505- RON'S PET 83 (D,G) R Harris 4-8-9 P Fitzsimons (7) 6
206 508- FOXIE LADY 134 P Murphy 4-8-8 S Drowne 7
207 0-65 LANCASHIRE LEGEND 2 (D) W Brisbourne 6-8-3 P Bradley (7) 5
208 5065 SING FOR ME 8 (C) R Hollinshead 4-7-12 P M Quinn (7) 1

5-2 Samwar, 3-1 Elite Hope, 9-2 Best Quest, 5-1 Foxie Lady, 8-1 Dryad, Ron's Pet, 25-1 Lancashire Legend, Sing For Me.

3.10 TAURUS CONDITIONS STAKES
(£5,332: 7f) (6)

301 1214 ITALIAN SYMPHONY 4 (V,CD) P Evans 5-10-8 G Cogan (7) 2
302 152- DIAMOND WHITE 102 (D,F,S) P D'Arcy 4-9-9 R Price 4
303 00-1 BOLD EFFORT 15 (B,C,F,S) K Cunningham-Brown 7-9-4 R Cochrane 1
304 2-11 WEETMAN'S WEIGH 21 (CD,F,G,S) R Hollinshead 6-9-4 N Callan (5) 5
305 4345 CLASSY CLEO 7 (BF,F,G,S) P Evans 4-8-13 T G McLaughlin 6
306 -112 FLYING OFFICER 27 (BF,CD) M Prescott 3-8-9 T Sprake 3

7-4 Flying Officer, 7-2 Weetman's Weigh, 9-2 Classy Cleo, 11-2 Diamond White, 7-1 Bold Effort, 10-1 Italian Symphony.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Wolverhampton: 4.10 Nicholas Mistress, Habibi, Real Ting. Chepstow: 3.20 Glacial King, 4.55 Executive Decision. Wetherby: 5.05 Earp.

3.40 LEO HANDICAP [SHOWCASE RACE]
(£6,743: 1m 1f 79yd) (7)

401 61-0 WEET-A-MINUTE 49 (CD,F,G) R Hollinshead 6-10-0 A Culhane 7
402 000- TEMERAIRE 85J (F) R Ingram 4-9-4 A Clark 5
403 4165 SUALTACH 7 (CD,F,S) R Hollinshead 6-9-4 N Callan (5) 3
404 0112 THEKRYAATI 15 (BF,CD) M Johnston 4-8-7 G Carter 4
405 2463 KING PRIAM 7 (B,G) M Polglase 6-8-1 A Nicholls (5) 2
406 1121 BARON DE PICHON 8 (C) N Littmoden 3-7-13 (6ex) J Quinn 1
407 1121 HIGH NOON 7 (CD) N Littmoden 4-7-12 (6ex) J Tate 6

9-4 Thekryaati, 4-1 Baron De Pichon, 11-2 King Priam, 6-1 Weet-A-Minute, High Noon, 13-2 Sualtach, 12-1 Temeraire.

4.10 AQUARIUS SELLING HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £1,856: 5f) (13)

501 8348 DOLLY DAY DREAM 11 (B,F) K Ivory 9-7 Martin Dwyer 2
502 -043 LEGAL VENTURE 14 (B,D,F) N Littmoden 9-7 T G McLaughlin 7
503 2-05 DAVID 25 (G) Miss G Kelleway 9-5 P Fredericks (5) 11
504 00-6 PASHA 21 (B) Miss J Craze 9-4 S Webster 12
505 2165 NICHOLAS MISTRESS 4 (V) P Evans 9-1 N Callan (5) 13
506 05-5 WEETRAIN 11 J Given 9-1 J Fanning 1
507 60-0 GREY STRIKE 28 (B) J Berry 8-11 P Fessey 5
508 0602 SOUNDS LUCKY 2 N Littmoden 8-11 C Carver (5) 8
509 -255 STUTTON GAL 12 (B) J Wharton 8-10 F Norton 9
510 600- COSMIC ALTITUDE 151 A Newcombe 8-8 J Quinn 6
511 0-05 HABIBI 12 (V,G) Mrs N Macauley 8-8 P McCabe 4
512 000- REAL TING 152 (V) P Evans 8-1 J Tate 10
513 46-6 ANOTHER LOVER 18 S Knight 7-12 A Polli (3) 3

4-1 David, 5-1 Dolly Day Dream, 6-1 Legal Venture, Weetrain, 8-1 Nicholas Mistress, Stutton Gal, 12-1 Pasha, Grey Strike, Habibi, 14-1 others.

4.45 LINDA & LESLEY NEARLY A CENTURY CLAIMING STAKES (Div II: £1,665: 7f) (8)

601 -223 TROJAN HERO 7 (CD,F,G) Mrs M Reveley 8-9-1 A Culhane 1
602 2154 C-HARRY 7 (CD,G,S) R Hollinshead 5-8-13 R Cochrane 8
603 00/0 MELASUS 23 (D,F) D Arbuthnot 7-8-11 S Whitworth 2
604 0514 ABTAAL 2 (V,D,F,G) Mrs N Macauley 9-8-9 P McCabe 5
605 05-0 MARLIA 16 (S) Miss G Kelleway 4-8-8 R French 4
606 5-05 ED'S FOLLY 11 (B) L A Dace 6-8-7 R Thomas (7) 7
607 2000 FAYIM 7 (CD) Miss S Wilson 5-8-3 C Carver (5) 3
608 3000 AMINSTON GIRL 7 (B,G) P Evans 4-7-12 J Quinn 6

2-1 C-Harry, 5-2 Trojan Hero, 4-1 Abtaal, 7-1 Fayim, 12-1 Melasus, 14-1 others.

5.15 'LESLEY'S 48 TODAY (YEARS NOT CIGS)' HANDICAP [TOTE TRIFECTA RACE] (£2,583: 1m 4f) (9)

1 00-4 KIERANS BRIDGE 21 (CD) A Jarvis 4-9-10 L Newton 9
2 5344 NOUKARI 7 (D) P Evans 6-9-8 T G McLaughlin 1
3 1620 ABULJOOD 5 (B,CD) M Waring 4-9-6 R Price 4
4 304- JALB 45J (D,S) P Murphy 5-9-5 S Drowne 2
5 -501 COLONEL CUSTER 9 J Pearce 4-9-1 (6ex) G Bardwell 8
6 00-1 LAW DANCER 6 (C,D) T Mills 6-8-11 Lisa Hackett (7) 7
7 00-4 HILL FARM DANCER 11 (CD,F,G) W Brisbourne 8-8-8 P Bradley (7) 3
8 5455 CZAR WARS 9 (S) P Dalton 4-7-10 J Quinn 5
9 3-50 QUIBBLING 47 (V) K Comerford 5-7-10 P Fessey 6

3-1 Law Dancer, 4-1 Colonel Custer, 5-1 Noukari, 6-1 Jalb, 7-1 Kierans Bridge, 8-1 Czar Wars, 10-1 Abuljood, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: W Jarvis, 11 winners from 35 runners, 31.4%; R Ingram, 6 from 23, 26.1%; M Bell, 19 from 77, 24.7%; Sir M Prescott, 26 from 114, 22.8%; T Mills, 5 from 25, 20.0%; M Johnston, 47 from 243, 19.3%.

JOCKEYS: N Callan, 4 winners from 19 rides, 21.1%; R Cochrane, 19 from 107, 17.8%; R French, 7 from 47, 14.9%; T McLaughlin, 25 from 174, 14.4%; J Tate, 14 from 103, 13.6%; G Carter, 29 from 215, 13.5%.

CHEPSTOW

THUNDERER

2.20 In The Blood. 2.50 Bow Bells. 3.20 Royal Raven. 3.50 Kingsmark. 4.20 Miss Diskin. 4.55 Executive Decision.

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.50 KATES CHARM.

GOING: HEAVY (7.45AM INSPECTION) — SIS

2.20 GREAT EXPECTATIONS HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,539: 2m 3f 110yd) (5 runners)

1 1-11PF IRBEE 67 (CD,G,S) (J Keighley & P Barber) P Nicholls 7-11-13 J Tizzard 125
2 F3PP2F DENICHEUR 7 (G) (Mrs W Morrell) Mrs L Taylor 8-11-2 O McPhail (5) [illegible]
3 2231-1 IN THE BLOOD 23 (G,S) (I Shaw) P Hobbs 8-11-1 C Maude 97
4 1-1242 THE EENS 32 (BF,S) (Shaw Hill Golf Club) D McCain 7-10-0 N Williamson 125
5 433U3P KOO'S PROMISE 28 (F,G) (G Warren Ltd) C Popham 8-10-0 R Johnson 119

Long handicap: The Eens 9-11, Koo's Promise 9-3.

BETTING: 11-10 In The Blood, 9-4 Irbee, 11-4 The Eens, 25-1 Denicheur, 33-1 Koo's Promise.

1998: MEETING ABANDONED — WATERLOGGED



Irbee weakening when fell 5 out in 7-runner novice chase grade 1 won by Lord Of The River at Kempton (3m, soft); beat Calon Lan 10l in 6-runner novice chase at Chepstow (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft) when last completing. Denicheur fell in handicap chase at Doncaster (2m 3f 110yd, good), previously beaten a distance 2nd of 5 to Striking Light in handicap chase at Uttoxeter (3m 4f 110yd, good to soft). In The Blood beat Jason's Boy 5l in 10-runner handicap chase at Fontwell (2m 2f, good to soft); previously beat Jason's Boy a distance in 5-runner handicap chase at Exeter (2m 2f, heavy). The Eens 12l 2nd of 7 to Jaunty General in handicap chase at Ayr (2m, heavy), previously 29l 4th of 9 to Jerraro in handicap chase at Haydock (2m 4f, soft). Koo's Promise pulled up in handicap chase at Taunton (3m, good to soft), previously 9½l 3rd of 7 to Mahwood Castle in handicap chase at Wincanton (3m 1f 110yd, soft).

IN THE BLOOD is entitled to improve for his reappearance victory and can defy a 6lb rise in the handicap

2.50 POACHER'S SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,248: 2m 110yd) (16 runners)

1 2/00-P BREAK THE RULES 15 (D,G,S) (N Stutts) Miss K Marks 7-12-0 C Rafter (7) —
2 53-25P GRAND CRU 34 (Alan Spargo Ltd Toolmakers) J Cullinan 8-11-8 N Kavanagh (7) 90
3 424665 SHADIRWAN 49 (C Popham) C Popham 8-11-7 O McPhail (5) 55
4 F06412 BRETECHE 13 (V,BF,S) (G Scanlon & Miss J Kirk) M Pipe 4-10-10 A P McCoy 76
5 2P1-0P GOLDEN FILM 99 (S) (Mrs M Llewellyn) B Llewellyn 11-10-9 S Wynne 92
6 000140 HEAD GARDENER 19 (B,C,G) (Another Comedy) R Lee 5-10-8 Mr P Costello (7) 41
7 545 TRAKELOR 60 (L Morgan) R Hollinshead 4-10-3 Gary Lyons 79
8 503-20 BONNY 13 (D Windle) D Windle 6-10-3 W Marston 89
9 /PP-03 PRIDEWOOD FUGGLE 23 (Mrs B Morris) R J Price 9-10-0 R Johnson 73
10 23153P BALMORAL PRINCESS 27 (F,S) (Mrs S Maan) D McCain 6-10-0 R Bellamy [illegible]
11 33/0/0 NOTHING DOING 20F (Broughton Bloodstock) W Musson 10-10-0 N Williamson —
12 52645 BOW BELLS 16 (J Joseph) J Joseph 4-10-0 J Goldstein (3) 71
13 -0010P SANDANTE 27 (S) (M West) R Buckler 8-10-0 D O'Sullivan (7) 60
14 5305/P EASY OVER 231 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs D Thomas) Mrs D Thomas 13-10-0 Mr R Forristal (5) —
15 P/5-P0 FLASHMAN 117 (K Russell) B Llewellyn 9-10-0 Miss E J Jones 53
16 0003-P SEE MINNOW 106 (Miss S Waterman) Miss S Waterman 6-10-0 Mr D O'Meara (7) —

Long handicap: Nothing Doing 9-12, Bow Bells 9-12, Sandante 9-7, Easy Over 9-3, Flashman 9-1, See Minnow 8-12.

BETTING: 5-2 Breteche, 6-1 Pridewood Fuggle, 13-2 Bonny, 8-1 Golden Film, Trakelor, 10-1 Grand Cru, Shadirwan, Head Gardener, 12-1 others.

Grand Cru pulled up in novice handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, soft); previously 12l 5th of 17 to Anny's Lad in amateur novice handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m 3f, soft). Shadirwan beaten a distance 5th of 12 to Magic Combination in novice handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, heavy). Breteche short head 2nd of 15 to Stretching in selling handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good to soft), previously beat Inclination 4l in 6-runner selling hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, heavy). Head Gardener 56l 9th of 17 to Roker Joker in novice handicap hurdle at Bangor (2m 4f, good to soft), previously 35l 4th of 9 to Weather Wise in selling handicap hurdle at Hereford (3m 2f, good). Trakelor 19l 5th of 10 to Prussia in selling hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, soft), previously 6¾l 4th of 16 to Optimistic Chris in 3yo novice selling hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, heavy) with Breteche (7lb worse off) 19l 6th. Bonny beaten a distance 11th of 15 to Plaid Maid in handicap hurdle at Taunton (3m 110yd, good to soft); previously 1¼l 2nd of 19 to Coble in selling handicap hurdle at Ludlow (2m, soft) with Pridewood Fuggle (3lb better off) 10l 8th. Pridewood Fuggle 12l 3rd of 10 to Tyto Steamer in selling handicap hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f 110yd, good to soft). Nothing Doing beaten a distance 13th of 14 to Rush in claiming hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, soft). Bow Bells 10l 5th of 7 to It's Wallace in handicap hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, soft); previously 18l 4th of 16 to Park Royal in selling handicap hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, heavy).

TRAKELOR appears fairly treated on his switch to handicap ranks and should give a good account

3.20 GILLIE'S NOVICES CHASE (£3,870: 3m) (10 runners)

1 PP31/3 BALLYBOLLEN 61 (D,S) (T Neill & Lady Thompson) M Pipe 7-11-7 R Greene —
2 005446 DUNNICKS TOWN 29 (F Tucker) F Tucker 7-11-7 G Supple (3) 18
3 50P568 FASTINI GOLD 23 (B,F) (A Price) R J Price 7-11-7 J Mogford (7) 65
4 F2-PP3 GLACIAL KING 30 (B,D,G) (Mrs E Ellis) K Bishop 7-11-7 B Powell 102
5 -094FP HIGH THYNE 61 (B,D,S) (Net Partnership) P Hobbs 8-11-7 R Widger (5) 64
6 UP/16- LEDBURIAN 305P (D,S) (Mrs Y Allsop) A Hobbs 9-11-7 W Marston —
7 42P/4F ROYAL RAVEN 14 (G) (A Weller) J Gifford 8-11-7 L Aspell 73
8 2-304P SEE ENOUGH 44 (D,S) (J Meaden) R Buckler 11-11-7 J R Kavanagh [illegible]
9 33-22P SPRING DOUBLE 11 (G,S) (Mrs L Berryman) N Twiston-Davies 8-11-7 C Llewellyn 124
10 4P9654 BALLY LIRA 16 (S) (V Thorne) P Rodford 7-11-2 S Burrough 100

BETTING: 4-5 Spring Double, 5-1 Ballybollen, 8-1 High Thyne, 10-1 See Enough, 12-1 Royal Raven, Bally Lira, 20-1 Glacial King, 25-1 others.

Ballybollen beaten a distance 3rd of 6 to Phar Less Hassle in novice hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, heavy). Dunnicks Town beaten a distance 6th of 14 to North Kilkenny in novice chase at Taunton (2m 3f, good to soft), previously beaten a distance 4th of 8 to Majadou in novice chase at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good to soft). Fastini Gold brought down in handicap chase at Fontwell (3m 2f 110yd, soft), previously 63l 6th of 10 to Legal Right in novice chase at Ludlow (2m 4f, good to soft). Glacial King beaten a distance 3rd of 5 to Military Academy in novice chase at Plumpton (3m 1f 110yd, soft). High Thyne pulled up in handicap chase at Plumpton (3m 1f 110yd, heavy), 50l 4th of 7 to Marlborough in novice chase at Worcester (2m 4f 110yd, heavy) when last completing. Royal Raven fell in novice chase at Folkestone (2m 5f, soft), previously 30l 4th of 7 to Andsuephi in novice chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, soft). See Enough pulled up in novice chase at Plumpton (3m 1f 110yd, heavy), previously 13l 4th of 6 to Emerald Statement in novice chase at Folkestone (3m 2f, soft). Spring Double pulled up in novice chase grade 2 at Ascot (3m 110yd, good to soft), previously 13l 2nd of 8 to Cheerful Aspect in novice chase at Towcester (2m 6f, soft). Bally Lira 67l 4th of 9 to Strong Tel in novice chase at Plumpton (3m 1f 110yd, soft), previously 41l 5th of 8 to Marlborough in novice chase at Kempton (3m, soft).

SPRING DOUBLE boasts some fair form and can benefit from having his sights lowered

3.50 PRESTIGE NOVICES HURDLE (Grade II: £9,555: 3m) (5 runners)

1 1-2161 BUCK'S PALACE 25 (D,G,S) (P Barber & J Keighley) P Nicholls 8-11-6 J Tizzard 112
2 3-1111 KINGSMARK 39 (S) (R Ogden) D Sherwood 6-11-6 R Dunwoody 118
3 F41-21 STORM CASTLE 29 (D,S) (N Cronin) D Arbuthnot 7-11-3 D Gallagher 90
4 -15311 KATES CHARM 25 (G,S) (Happy Band) R Alner 6-11-1 A Thornton [illegible]
5 212422 GENTLE RIVAGE 39 (S) (G & D Keys) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-0 C Llewellyn 111

BETTING: 7-4 Kingsmark, 2-1 Kates Charm, 9-2 Buck's Palace, 8-1 Gentle Rivage, 10-1 Storm Castle.

Buck's Palace beat Lady Of Gortmerron 2l in 8-runner novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (3m 110yd, heavy), previously beaten a distance 6th of 10 to Sadler's Realm in handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, good). Kingsmark beat Gentle Rivage (1lb worse off) 5l in 9-runner novice hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, soft). Storm Castle beat Master Rastus neck in 12-runner maiden hurdle at Taunton (3m 110yd, good to soft), previously 4l 2nd of 14 to Winston Run in novice hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, soft). Kates Charm beat Ebullient Equiname 10l in 11-runner handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m 6f 110yd, heavy), previously beat Bora Bora 17l in 6-runner mares novice hurdle at Lingfield (2m 3f 110yd, heavy). Gentle Rivage ¾l 2nd of 10 to Perfect Fellow in maiden hurdle at Stratford (2m 6f 110yd, soft) on penultimate start.

KINGSMARK can confirm Kempton superiority over Gentle Rivage with the longer trip likely to suit

4.20 HUNTSMAN'S HANDICAP CHASE (£5,680: 3m) (9 runners)

1 13P-1P SPARKLING CONE 60 (BF,C,S) (Mrs M Horton) Miss V Williams 10-12-0 N Williamson 134
2 142UD- BRAVE HIGHLANDER 319 (D,G,S) (S Embiricos) J Gifford 11-11-10 P Hide 130
3 303P-3 WITH IMPUNITY 11 (C,G,S) (G Mizel) P Nicholls 10-11-4 J Tizzard 113
4 13402- ORSWELL LAD 324 (B,D,S) (R Wright) P Hobbs 10-11-4 Mr P Flynn (7) 135
5 1212-3 MISS DISKIN 79 (G,S) (M Forrester) R Buckler 10-10-13 B Powell 127
6 432342 OBAN 41 (D,G,S) (Lord Harrington) Miss H Knight 9-10-10 J Culloty 133
7 4-P212 MAJORS LEGACY 28 (D,S) (Mrs G Leigh) N Daly 10-10-7 R Johnson [illegible]
8 2-3F3P HERHORSE 13 (S) Miss A Howard-Chappell 12-10-0 W Marston 129
9 P-42PB BENJAMIN LANCASTER 28 (C,D,G,S) (M Griffin) M Griffin 15-10-0 M Griffiths (5) 71

Long handicap: Herhorse 9-13, Benjamin Lancaster 7-13.

BETTING: 7-4 Sparkling Cone, 5-1 Oban, 7-1 With Impunity, Orswell Lad, Miss Diskin, 8-1 Brave Highlander, Majors Legacy, 20-1 others.

Sparkling Cone beat Majors Legacy 7l in 7-runner handicap chase at Towcester (3m 1f, heavy) on penultimate start. Brave Highlander 32l 7th of 18 to Baronet in handicap chase grade 3 at Ayr (4m 1f, good). With Impunity 17l 3rd of 5 to The Outback Way in handicap chase at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). Orswell Lad ¾l 2nd of 4 to Flapjack Lad in handicap chase at Chepstow (3m 2f 110yd, heavy); previously 49l 7th of 22 to Cyfor Malta in handicap chase at Aintree (2m 6f, soft). Miss Diskin 18l 3rd of 7 to Kilmington in handicap chase at Plumpton (3m 1f 110yd, heavy); previously 6l 2nd of 8 to Hollybank Buck in handicap chase grade 2 at Punchestown (3m 1f, heavy). Oban 2½l 2nd of 11 to Zaggy Lane in handicap chase at Taunton (3m 3f, heavy), previously 24l 4th of 8 to Rightsaidfred in handicap chase at Newbury (3m 2f 110yd, soft) with Sparkling Cone (1lb better off) pulled up. Majors Legacy 1¼l 2nd of 4 to Raqib in handicap chase at Lingfield (3m, heavy), previously beat Boots Madden 11l in 5-runner handicap chase at Towcester (2m 6f, heavy). Herhorse pulled up in handicap chase at Taunton (3m, good to soft), previously neck 3rd of 7 to Luke Warm in handicap chase at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, soft). Benjamin Lancaster 67l 6th of 7 to Northern Saddler in handicap chase at Newton Abbot (2m 110yd, heavy).

WITH IMPUNITY ran on well when getting his second wind on his reappearance and should now strip fitter

4.55 GAMEKEEPER'S HANDICAP HURDLE
(£4,418: 2m 110yd) (6 runners)

1 31PPP- THE FRENCH FURZE 20F (D,F,G) (J Ennis) R Peacock 5-12-0 Mr N Fehily (7) —
2 6-2055 EXECUTIVE DECISION 11 (B,D,S) (E Gutner) P Nicholls 5-11-3 J Tizzard [illegible]
3 131443 LORD RICHFIELD 11 (D,S) (M & A Hanks) S Brookshaw 8-10-10 X Aizpuru (3) 106
4 3-3d34 DICTUM 18 (BF,D,F,S) (Mrs R Humphries) Miss H Knight 8-10-7 J Culloty 111
5 665111 PICKET PIECE 19 (D,S) (Mrs J Mould) D Nicholson 8-10-6 R Johnson 122
6 241 HEROS FATAL 26 (D,S) (F Farrant) M Pipe 5-10-5 A P McCoy 121

BETTING: 9-4 Picket Piece, 7-2 Dictum, 4-1 Heros Fatal, 9-2 Executive Decision, Lord Richfield, 20-1 The French Furze.

Executive Decision 14l 5th of 8 to Young Spartacus in handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m, good to soft); previously 8¾l 5th of 7 to Moorish in handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, soft). Lord Richfield 7l 3rd of 8 to Robbo in handicap hurdle at Newcastle (2m 4f, good to soft), previously 12l 4th of 8 to Caulker in handicap hurdle at Ayr (2m, heavy). Dictum 29l 4th of 9 to Mockery in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m 4f, soft), previously 8¾l 3rd of 11 to Rainwatch in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, soft). Picket Piece beat Carlys Quest 1¼l in 7-runner novice handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good to soft), previously beat Buckside 2½l in 16-runner novice handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, soft). Heros Fatal beat Westfield Cockney 1¼l in 9-runner maiden hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, heavy), previously 7½l 4th of 10 to Arctic Fancy in novice hurdle at Plumpton (2m 1f, heavy).

PICKET PIECE has shown progressive form and has a good opening here to extend his winning sequence

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
Miss V Williams	7	15	46.7	J Tizzard	8	18	44.4
P Nicholls	29	96	30.2	A McCoy	36	152	23.7
P Hobbs	25	96	26.0	D O'Sullivan	6	26	23.1
D Nicholson	17	80	21.3	R Dunwoody	19	96	19.8
M Pipe	37	187	19.8	N Williamson	5	26	19.2
N Twiston-Davies	18	109	16.5	R Johnson	15	85	17.6
R Alner	5	38	13.2	W Marston	11	70	15.7
B Llewellyn	3	24	12.5	C Llewellyn	16	104	15.4
J Gifford	5	56	8.9	A Thornton	6	59	10.2

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: IN THE BLOOD (2.20 Chepstow)

The Philip Hobbs-trained chaser looks capable of defying a 6lb rise in the handicap after last month's Fontwell victory.

Next best: Majors Legacy (4.20 Chepstow)

Wimbledon struggle to revive season

By Russell Kempson

WIMBLEDON are renowned for being at their most dangerous when wounded, but, surprisingly, they have responded in lukewarm fashion since the Worthington Cup semi-final defeat against Tottenham Hotspur two weeks ago. Tame draws against Aston Villa and Everton have made a mockery of their "up and at 'em" reputation.

Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, will point to a catalogue of injuries that have torn the heart from his squad, but the club's season could peter out into mid-table obscurity unless he sparks his players into action.

Tonight, Wimbledon play Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough, not the easiest of games in which to signal a revival in fortunes. Wimbledon are without a victory in their past nine league and cup matches, while Wednesday have won four of their past five outings in the FA Carling Premiership, scoring 13 goals.

"All the lads were disappointed after losing to Tottenham," Neil Sullivan, the Wimbledon goalkeeper, said yesterday, "but we've got over it now and we still feel we have a good chance of qualifying for Europe. There's no way we're going to give up."

It will need a Herculean effort from Wimbledon, who lie two points above Wednesday, for them to qualify for the Uefa Cup next season via a high finish in the Premiership, but they are already contemplating an alternative route. Kinnear recently made encouraging noises about entering the Intertoto Cup, the close-season competition for Europe's nearly men.

"It has been mentioned," Sullivan said. "I gather it starts in late July, which could affect our summer holidays, but if that's what it takes for us to get into Europe, then that's what we've got to do."

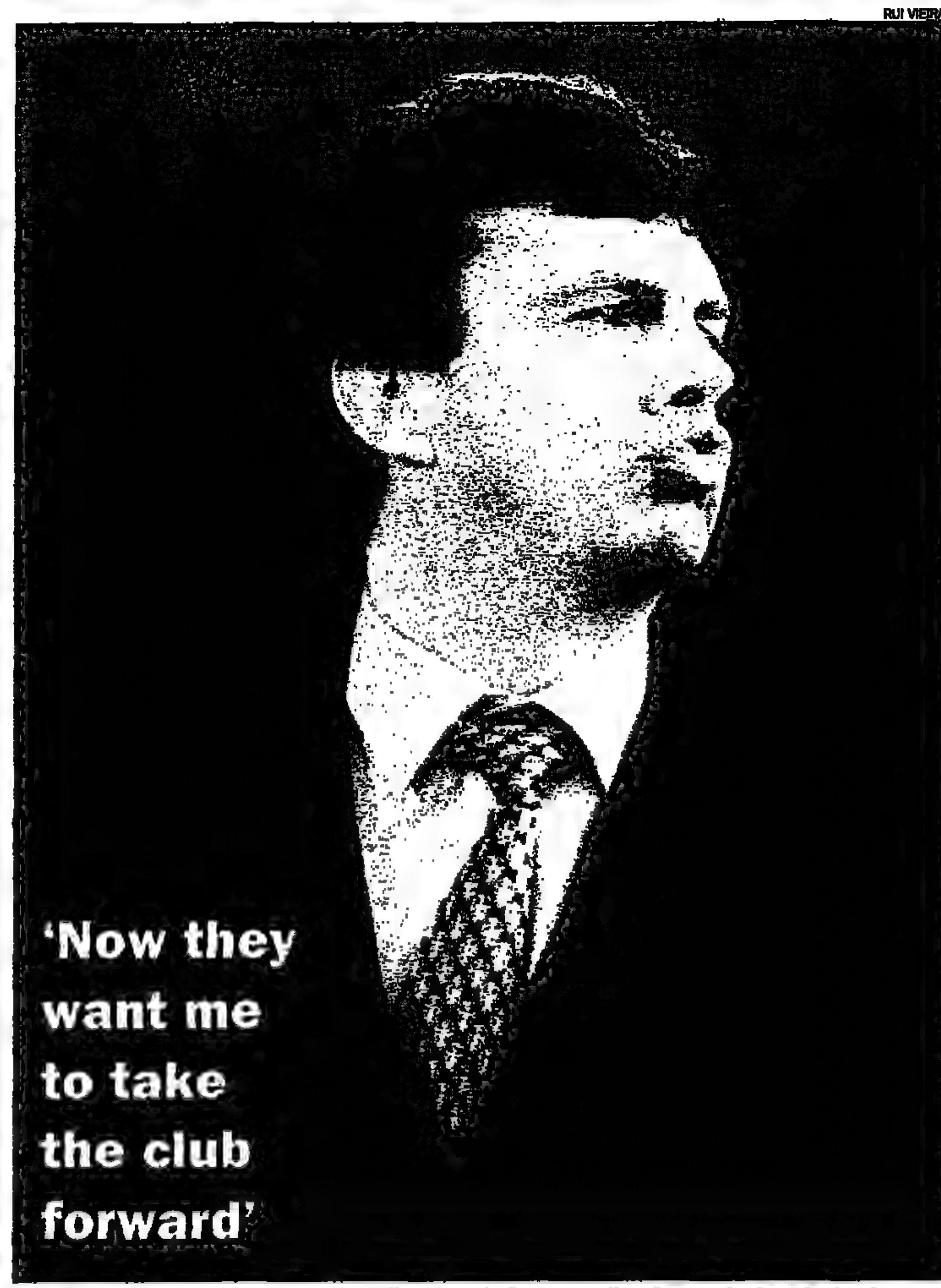
In the Nationwide League first division, Barnsley attempt to concentrate their minds ahead of their FA Cup quarter-final against Tottenham when they take on Bradford City at Oakwell this evening. Bradford have lost only one of their past 13 league matches.

Queens Park Rangers, without a win in nine games, meet Oxford United at Loftus Road in an encounter that could alleviate either club's fears of relegation.

Swindon Town play Tranmere Rovers at the County Ground in a fixture that has little link with either promotion or relegation. Tranmere have built a sequence of three wins and three draws.

Richard Hobson on a rewarding time for a bright young manager

O'Leary leads by example



O'Leary has made a big impact at Elland Road after succeeding George Graham in October

If the Leeds United directors harboured reservations when they appointed David O'Leary to succeed George Graham as manager, they are in no doubt now that they chose the right man. Such is their confidence in O'Leary now that, little more than four months on, they have offered the former Ireland international a five-year contract.

O'Leary has told Peter Ridsdale, the chairman, that he will agree to the deal and is waiting for the company that owns the club to approve the terms. With Leeds lying fourth in the FA Carling Premiership after a 2-1 win against Leicester City at Filbert Street on Monday night, O'Leary is entitled to reflect on a start in management that must have surpassed his expectations.

Two years remain on the existing contract that he re-negotiated when he stepped up from assistant to Graham last October and the fresh commitment will tie him to Elland Road until 2004. Even while acting as caretaker manager during the period when Martin O'Neill tormented himself over whether to walk out on Leicester and meet Ridsdale, O'Leary gave clear indications of the direction in which he wanted to take Leeds given the opportunity.

After Jonathon Woodgate and Stephen McPhail, Alan Smith, the 18-year-old striker, has become the latest starlet to shine, while Harry Kewell, left back in the FA Youth Cup-winning team two years ago, has overcome an uncertain start to the season to flourish in a new role behind the strikers.

Not since Ryan Giggs beat a path into the first team at Manchester United that the likes of Beckham and the Nevilles followed has such a talented group of young players emerged together with such brio. "I think the chairman feels I can take the club forward," O'Leary said. "I hope at the end of the five years, we can be genuine contenders for the title. At the moment, we are not quite that, although I believe we are getting closer all the time.

"When I accepted the job, Mr Ridsdale told me I had done very well under George. He had confidence in me, but said I needed to prove I was capable of being a manager. The club wanted to see what I could do and whether Leeds United was in safe hands. Now they want me to take the club and the youngsters on for the next five years and I am delighted.

"I did not have any doubt about it. Then when he said he wanted me to stay for longer I just asked: 'How long?' He came up with the five-year period, not me.

"People have said that a successful manager needs to learn his trade in the lower leagues, but I do not necessarily agree. I have always been in the top flight of English football and that has been a great education. I learnt a lot from George, but there are certain things I do differently. This is my team now because I am the manager and this is the way we play."

"They want all the youngsters to commit themselves in that way and they thought the first thing to do is get the manager to let them know he's staying."

On present form, Leeds must be fancied to remain above Aston Villa, whose confidence has drained as their position in the table has deteriorated. The main concern for O'Leary is the way that injuries have bitten into the squad with Hiden, Molenaar and Kelly all long-term absentees and David Batty beginning a comeback only recently.

However, any signings will be for the long term rather than a quick fix. He said: "I need to add quality in some positions and I hope I get the backing from the board. Only time will tell if that proves to be the case. But what I will not do is panic buy and give people the excuse to describe me as a naive, young manager."

In contrast, problems are mounting for O'Neill. Emile Heskey has struggled with a back injury for three months and lasted for just 45 minutes on Monday before being replaced by Ian Marshall, himself short of full match fitness. The England Under-21 striker said that he intends to see a specialist and may miss the Worthington Cup final against Tottenham Hotspur on March 21.

"I have had this problem for three months and the worrying thing is that it is not getting any better," Heskey said. "I rest it up and come back into games, but then its goes again and I just couldn't continue on Monday for the second half."

O'Neill said: "The back problem that Emile is suffering from is giving us cause for concern. He has had a problem finishing games in recent weeks."

PREMIERSHIP TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	26	16	9	3	63	30	57
Chelsea	27	14	11	2	41	22	53
Arsenal	27	13	11	3	35	13	50
Leeds	27	12	9	6	41	[illegible]	45
Aston Villa	27	12	8	7	38	31	44
West Ham	27	11	7	9	31	[illegible]	40
Liverpool	27	11	6	10	50	34	39
Derby	27	9	11	7	26	[illegible]	38
Wimbledon	26	9	10	7	30	[illegible]	37
Sheff Wed	26	10	5	11	34	[illegible]	35
Newcastle	27	9	8	10	35	[illegible]	35
Tottenham	26	7	12	7	30	[illegible]	33
Middlesbro	27	7	12	8	34	[illegible]	33
Leicester	26	7	9	10	26	[illegible]	30
Everton	27	6	10	11	20	[illegible]	28
Charlton	27	6	9	12	31	[illegible]	27
Coventry	27	7	6	14	26	[illegible]	27
Blackburn	27	6	8	13	27	[illegible]	26
Southampton	26	6	5	15	26	50	23
Nottm Forest	27	3	8	16	22	54	17

Goldberg's dream approaches sad end

By John Goodbody

CRYSTAL PALACE the Nationwide League first division club, is expected to go into administration today. The directors are expected to accept the inevitable at a board meeting at Selhurst Park. Mark Goldberg, the chairman, faces the prospect of paying the £500,000 wages owing to the staff and players out of his own pocket. No one was prepared to comment officially at the club yesterday, but an announcement is expected after the board meeting.

If administrators are called in, it will be a sorry end to what began as a flamboyant adventure last summer. Goldberg, the archetypal boyhood supporter turned club director, had become a millionaire largely by running a successful recruitment agency in Kent. He decided to buy Crystal Palace for £23.5 million from Ron Noades, the long-established chairman, who had built up the club. Noades has retained ownership of the ground and also the training centre, although he is now the owner of Brentford.

Goldberg's first move last July was to persuade Terry Venables to join him at the club where the former England coach first made his name as manager. Venables's salary was believed to be more than £1 million a year.

However, within two months, both Noades and Venables said that Goldberg had over-reached himself financially. Noades said of the takeover: "It was a stupid deal for him to do." Venables said: "I believe that buying the club has stretched him more than he thought it would."

In November, Noades issued a writ against over the alleged non-repayment of a £1.5 million loan and, by January, Venables was admitting that that he had agreed to take over at Selhurst Park because he believed he would have ample money for players. This had not materialised. Instead, Palace were forced to sell Matt Jansen, their outstanding striker, to Blackburn Rovers for £4.5 million in January. The same month, Venables stood down as head coach, being retained as a part-time consultant. Coppell took over as manager for the third time in his career.

Yesterday Coppell was trying to maintain a cheerful air as he took the club to play Sheffield United. He said: "I am a director of the club, but I don't know the ins and outs of the situation. However, I do know that tomorrow is a very important day."

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

Here is another deal featuring Paul Soloway:

Dealer South — Love all — Teams

North: ♠ A 5 ♡ 2 ◇ J 10 9 8 2 ♣ 10 9 6 5 2

West: ♠ K 8 6 3 ♡ A K 5 3 ◇ K 5 4 3 ♣ 3

East: ♠ 7 4 2 ♡ J 10 8 6 ◇ 7 6 ♣ Q 8 7 4

South: ♠ Q J 10 9 ♡ Q 9 7 4 ◇ A Q ♣ A K J

S	W	N	E
1 C	Double	3 C	Pass
3 NT	All Pass		

Contract: Three No-Trumps by South. Lead: three of hearts.

This classic declarer-play problem arose in a Vanderbilt knock-out teams match. Both teams involved reached Three No-Trumps, which should be defeated easily enough.

Soloway's team-mate led a top heart and shifted to a spade, which beat the contract easily enough – declarer could not make more than three spades, two diamonds and three clubs.

Soloway received a low heart lead at trick one and won East's ten with his queen. The auction had been very revealing, suggesting as it did that not only were hearts 4-4, but also that the spade finesse would be right. The winning play has a pleasing elegance.

At trick two Soloway cashed one top club and then played the queen of diamonds. If West wins his only possible chance is to play the king of spades, but you can now come to nine tricks via four spades, one heart, one diamond and three clubs. It is much better for him to duck.

Next Soloway played the jack of clubs and it was East's turn to have no winning solution. Again, if he wins this and plays a spade to the king and ace, you have your nine tricks (four spades, one heart, two diamonds and two clubs). If instead they cash their hearts and exit in another suit, you cash the ace of clubs and take the spade finesse. That allows you three tricks in the majors, two diamonds and four clubs.

So East has to duck the jack of clubs. Now, with five tricks in the minors to go with one heart, Soloway simply played ace and another spade, establishing three tricks there for his contract.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Kasparov leads

At half-time in the Linares super-tournament where each player has met every opponent once, Garry Kasparov leads by a full point. Remarkably, all three of his wins have come with the normally disadvantageous black pieces. The cross-table at the foot of this column gives the complete scores at the halfway stage.

White: Veselin Topalov
Black: Garry Kasparov
Linares 1999

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	a6
6	f3	e6
7	Be3	b5
8	g4	h6
9	Qd2	Nbd7
10	0-0-0	Bb7
11	h4	b4
12	Na4	Qa5
13	b3	Nc5
14	a3	Nxa4
15	axb4	Qc7
16	bxa4	d5
17	e5	Nd7
18	f4	Nb6
19	a5	Nc4
20	Qc3	Qe7
21	Bxc4	dxc4
22	Bd2	Bxh1
23	Rxh1	Qb7
24	Rd1	Be7
25	Qf3	0-0-0
26	Qc6+	Qxc6
27	Nxc6	Rd7
28	Nxe7+	Rxe7
29	Re1	h5
30	g5	Kb7
31	Be3	Rd7
32	Bc5	Kc6
33	Bd6	f6
34	gxf6	gxf6
35	Rg1	f5
36	Kd2	Kd5
37	Ke3	Rhh7
38	Bf8	Rhf7
39	Bh6	Rh7
40	Rg8	Rb7
41	Bf8	Rhf7
42	Bd6	Rg7
43	Rg5	Rbf7
44	c3	Kc6
45	Kf3	Kb5
46	Bc5	Ka4
47	Bd4	Rd7
48	Ke3	Kb3
49	Ke2	Rxg5
50	fxg5	Rxd4
51	cxd4	c3
52	g6	c2
53	g7	c1Q
54	g8Q	Qc4+
55	Ke3	Kc3
56	Qd8	Qd3+
57	Kf4	Qd2+
58	Kf3	Qd1+
59	Ke3	Qg1+
60	Ke2	Qg2+
61	Ke3	f4+

White resigns

Diagram of final position

LINARES 1999

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Pts
1 Kasparov	*	½	½	1	½	½	1	1	5
2 Kramnik	½	*	½	1	½	½	½	½	4
3 Anand	½	½	*	½	1	½	½	½	4
4 Adams	0	0	½	*	½	1	½	1	3½
5 Svidler	½	½	0	½	*	1	½	0	3
6 Leko	½	½	½	0	0	*	½	1	3
7 Topalov	0	½	½	½	½	½	*	½	3
8 Ivanchuk	0	½	½	0	1	0	½	*	2½

In the above table, 1 represents a win, ½ a draw and 0 a loss

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

GALAX
a. A solar system
b. An Australian braggart
c. An evergreen

BELLUM
a. A boat
b. Third stomach of cow
c. A beautiful thing

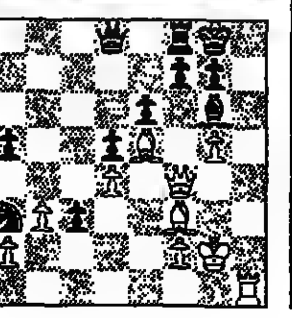
DATO
a. A date-picker
b. A landowner
c. A boyfriend

GALIGNANI
a. A thornproof tweed
b. An aperitif
c. A paper

Answers on page 38

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene



White to play. This position is from the game Braghetta — Grosar, Bratto 1998.

How did White create a bottleneck in the black position which led to a quick win for him?

Solution on page 38

FOOTBALL IN BRIEF

■ TERRY VENABLES has ruled out a return to the job of England coach after Kevin Keegan's four-match tenure. He said: "It's too late. I am no longer interested. If I was going to be the next manager, it would have happened by now. I think the FA would have let Keegan have anything to take the job — just as long as it wasn't me."

■ Duncan Ferguson's return to the Newcastle United first team could be a month away, Ruud Gullit, the Newcastle manager, said yesterday. The Scotland forward, who injured his groin against Liverpool nine weeks ago, will begin intensive running next Monday and is unlikely to be considered until the trip to Derby County on April 3.

■ Thomas Ravelli, the former Sweden goalkeeper, has announced his retirement from football. Ravelli, 39, who played for Sweden a world record 143 times, played his last match in the United States in November.

FA charges warring pair

By Our Sports Staff

GRAEME LE SAUX and Robbie Fowler have both been charged with misconduct by the Football Association after their confrontation during Chelsea's 2-1 victory over Liverpool at Stamford Bridge on Saturday.

Le Saux, the Chelsea full back, appeared to elbow Fowler after being taunted by the Liverpool striker. The FA made its decision after studying video evidence and the pair have 14 days to appeal.

The FA has accepted Paolo Di Canio's explanation for not attending a meeting with Graham Bean, its compliance officer, yesterday. Bean was due to meet the Italian striker to discuss his recent outburst over Paul Alcock, the referee, but Di Canio has instead gone home to visit a sick relative. The meeting has been rescheduled for next week.

Di Canio said last week that Alcock had not allowed him to "clear matters up" after his 11-game suspension for pushing over Alcock while playing for Sheffield Wednesday against Arsenal in September.

The Marco Branca saga took another twist last night when Middlesbrough contradicted reports that their Italian striker had been given the go-ahead to resume his career.

Di Canio: missed meeting

Branca, 34, suffered a serious knee injury last April and, after an abortive comeback earlier this season, the club's medical specialist, Andrew Webber, recommended that Branca should retire.

The player's demands for a second opinion were finally accepted by Middlesbrough and after consulting David Dandy, a knee specialist, the club said on Monday that Branca would rejoin his team-mates for training yesterday.

However, that was countered in a statement from the club last night. The statement read: "Branca's optimism is jumping the gun somewhat as a club spokesman says that the draft report from Mr Dandy indicates he is in agreement with the earlier consultant who believed that Branca's knee is not up to the stresses and strains of professional football. It seems that Mr Dandy has not given the green light Branca hoped he would receive."

RUGBY LEAGUE

Sharks may just be out of their depth

DESPITE recent heavy rain, the opening JJB Super League game between Wigan Warriors and Hull Sharks on Friday is not yet in doubt (Christopher Irvine writes).

However, with the river that is adjacent to Central Park having bursts its banks and the pitch drains blocked, a muddy spectacle is hardly the ideal advertisement for the start of a fourth "summer" season.

Wigan are due to move to their new 25,000-capacity stadium at Robin Park in September in time for the top-five play-offs, which this season have been slightly amended to reward teams finishing higher by giving them extra recovery time between the qualifying matches and semi-finals.

Though evens favourites to retain their title, Wigan will be relying far more than last season on a crop of talented youngsters, including Mike Smith, 17, a promising hooker, who is expected to make his debut on Friday.

At the launch of the 1999 season yesterday, Maurice Lindsay, the Super League Europe managing director, said: "There have been seasons when it has been a question of who will come second to Wigan, but the greater competition from the likes of Leeds and Bradford mean that is no longer the case."

TOMORROW
Club-by-club guide to the 1999 JJB Super League

Darren Turner, the Sheffield Eagles forward, has been fined £1,000, with £500 suspended for 12 months, and severely reprimanded by the Rugby Football League for making a gesture to the crowd after he was sent to the sin-bin during a Silk Cut Challenge Cup-tie at Salford Reds last month. He is already serving a six-match ban for a dangerous tackle in the same match.

SPORT IN BRIEF

■ **CRICKET:** Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh, who were both injured during the tour of South Africa, are fit again and have been named in the West Indies squad for the first Test with Australia, which starts on Friday at Queen's Park Oval, Port of Spain. Carl Hooper could not be considered because he is with his family in Australia.
WEST INDIES SQUAD: B C Lara (captain), S L Campbell, S Ragoonath, D R E Joseph, J C Adams, R I C Holder, P V Simmons, L Roberts, R D Jacobs, C A Walsh, C E L Ambrose, M Dillon, R D King, P Collins, C Collymore.

■ **BOXING:** Paul Jones, of Sheffield, has said that the brawl at the Oldham Leisure Centre on Saturday, in which a man died, has convinced him to give up boxing. Jones, who lost his Commonwealth middleweight championship to Jason Matthews after being disqualified for holding, 32, said: "If this is what comes with boxing, I'm out. I'll never fight again."

■ **BOWLS:** Tina Burgess, from Wellingborough, won the Champion of Champions' singles title at the Isca Centre, Exeter, yesterday when she beat Helen Wall, from Church Gresley, 21-16 in the final. Wall, who reached the semi-finals of the national under-31 championship last year, led 14-10 after 16 ends, but dropped 11 shots over the next seven.

■ **SAILING:** *Prada Challenge*, of Italy, had the best of a brisk day of racing on Auckland's Waitemata Harbour yesterday to lead after the first of four round-robins in the 1999 Road to America's Cup regatta. The Italian crew, skippered by Francesco de Angelis, finished on two points, with the French *Le Delfi* crew, skippered by Bertrand Pace, on one point.

■ **BADMINTON:** Joanne Goode has been seeded twice at the centenary Yonex All-England championships at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham next week. Goode and Simon Archer are seeded to reach the last eight of the mixed doubles, while Goode and Donna Kellogg are also seeded to reach the quarter-finals of the women's doubles.

Europe close to convergence

Mark Souster says rugby union can reach agreement by copying football

AS IN politics, so too, in rugby. The question of Europe has run like a fault line through the game, a running, divisive sore that for more than a year has steadfastly defied solution. The indications are, however, that the future of the European Cup either as it stands, or in a reconstituted form, should become clearer next week. There are grounds for optimism that some agreement can be reached, although, in the meantime, cutting through the fog of claim and counter-claim of the spin doctors is no easy task.

Ironically, it is football that might hold the key that breaks the logjam about who ultimately controls what — the issue that lies at the heart of the debilitating dispute between the clubs, in the form of English First Division Rugby (EFDR), and European Rugby Cup Ltd (ERC). It is being suggested the way in which the FA Premier League runs the FA Carling Premiership offers a template that, with modification, could be replicated by the formation of a new body controlling European rugby, which would meet the bulk of the requirements of all parties.

The Football Association has a shareholding in the Premier League, a largely autonomous body responsible for its own domestic fixtures, and commercial and television deals. However, the FA's shareholding — in exceptional circumstances — gives it power of veto, such as if a Premiership club wanted to join a European Super League. "Then the buck stops with us," Steve Double, an FA spokesman, said. "Fifa and Uefa only deal with us as the governing body."

That could go a long way to appeasing ERC, which feels that the English clubs seek ultimate control and want to hijack the competition for their own financial ends without regard for the greater good of the game. ERC is adamant that it will not compromise on what it sees as its duty. While insistent that the core principle is upheld, it has indicated it is prepared to give ground on commercial issues. A source close to ERC said yesterday: "Certain rights have to be ring-fenced, because you can't have clubs who only have their individual interests at heart. But we have come a long way to meeting other demands."

The clubs are adamant that ERC does not have the commercial nous to maximise income, but, according to sources close to EFDR, it understands the principle that there has to be a governing body. "There is no perfect solution. With negotiation, anything is possible. We give a bit, they give a bit," he said. Personalities aside, with such opimtistic noises emanating from both camps, it does not appear that the differences are irreconcilable. And if there is the will, there surely has to be a way.



Blanco: ultimatum

If their demands are not met, which include an audit of ERC finances by Arthur Andersen, the accountancy firm, England believe that their accord with France means they will kick start a new pan-European tournament consisting of 20 clubs — six French, five or six English, two or three Welsh, three from Ireland, two from Scotland and one from Italy. That was allegedly spelt out by Serge Blanco, the French clubs' representative, to Tom Kiernan, Glanmor Griffiths and Allan Hosie in Paris on Monday, with an ultimatum that a response should be received by next Tuesday.

However, confusion surrounds Blanco and France's role. England believe they and France are as one. ERC believes they are not. Behind the scenes, ERC remains suspicious of Francis Baron, the Rugby Football Union chief executive, who failed, because of a long-standing personal engagement, to attend an ERC board meeting in Lyons last Saturday. Given Baron's comments about bridge-building, his absence was not well received.

The Tetley's Bitter Cup semi-final between Wasps and Gloucester will take place at Loftus Road on Easter Sunday, April 4. A day of negotiations between the RFU, the clubs and BSkyB ended in agreement last night.

Ireland watch their weight

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

IRELAND, anticipating a heavy day and a sky raining high kicks, have called up all the weights that they can muster for the Five Nations Championship meeting with England at Lansdowne Road on Saturday. Victor Costello, the former shot-putter, will play No 8 in a XV where Girvan Dempsey is restored to the left wing after missing the 29-23 win over Wales 11 days ago.

Costello, at 18st 3lb, has a 2st advantage over Eric Miller and if the game becomes slowed down by soft conditions, his extra physique will be vital in a game in which Ireland will hope to reverse traditional roles and outplay England in the set-pieces. Costello damaged ribs in the 10-9 defeat by France last month, leaving Miller to play No 8 against the Welsh at Wembley.

Warren Gatland, the coach, is in the happy position of having four back-row players of quality with whom to juggle in a match that, were Ireland to win, would set them up for a tilt against Scotland for the triple crown. The versatile Miller is likely to play some role during the game since he can play in all three back-row positions, but Gatland's main worry yesterday was in the back division.

Dempsey, having recovered from a bruised hip, returns to the wing at the expense of Niall Woods, but there is a concern over Jonathan Bell, who suffered a dead leg playing for Dungannon at the weekend. The centre could not train at Greystones and if he is forced to withdraw, Rob Henderson will move up and Killian Keane, the Garryowen midfield player, will join the replacements.

"England are the team to beat," Gatland said yesterday. "On their day, they are capable of beating any team in the world."

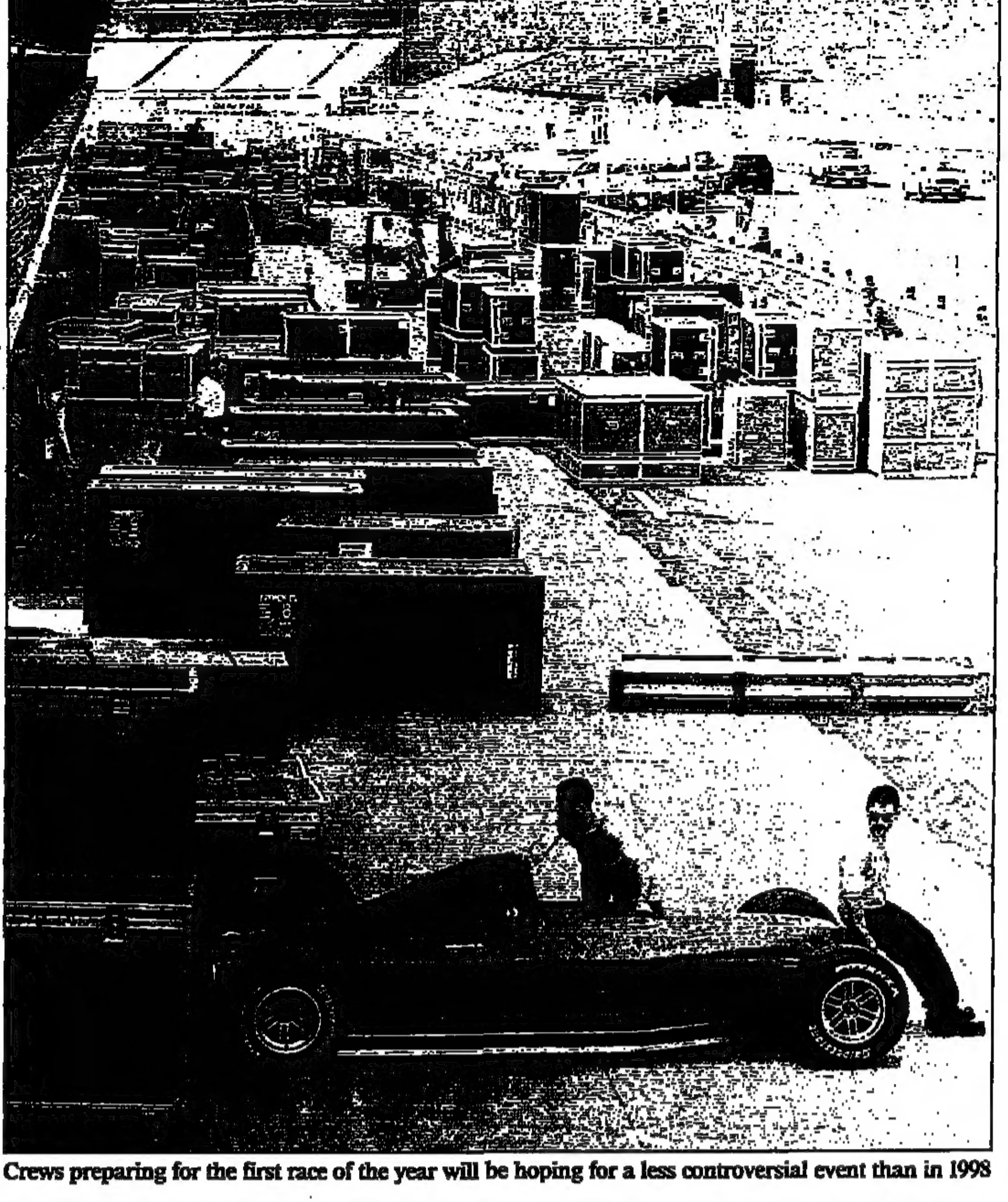
Jason Little, the Australia centre, will miss virtually the whole Super 12 tournament after breaking his collarbone playing for New South Wales against Natal Sharks at the weekend.

Gary Armstrong, the Scotland scrum half and captain, looks doubtful for the international against Italy on Saturday after injuring his arm in training.

IRELAND: C M P O'Shea (London Irish); J P Bishop (London Irish), K M Maggs (Bath), J C Bell (Dungannon), G Dempsey (Terenure College), D G Humphreys (Dungannon), C D McGuinness (St Mary's College), P M Clohessy (Young Munster), K G M Wood (Harlequins), P S Wallace (Saracens), P S Johns (Saracens, captain), J W Davidson (Castres), D O'Cuinneagain (Sale), A J Ward (Ballynahinch), V C P Costello (St Mary's College). **Replacements:** R A J Henderson (Wasps), E P Elwood (Galwegians), C J Scally (UCD), E R P Miller (Terenure College), M J Galwey (Shannon), J M Fitzpatrick (Dungannon), R P Nesdale (Newcastle)

Coulthard driven into corner

Kevin Eason finds the Melbourne public still wary of Formula One



WILL BURGESS

Crews preparing for the first race of the year will be hoping for a less controversial event than in 1998

It was left to David Coulthard yesterday to face up to the damage done to the reputation of Formula One by the act that he assumed would be regarded as gentlemanly conduct.

His decision to move over to allow Mika Hakkinen, his team-mate, to win the Australian Grand Prix last year because of a pre-race pact caused uproar and left a bitter taste behind in Melbourne as the Formula One circus went on its way around the world.

As grandstands, loudspeakers and giant television screens were erected in the city's Albert Park for the first grand prix of this season, Coulthard and his McLaren team were left in no doubt that the Australian public would not accept a similar outcome on Sunday.

Ron Walker, promoter of an event that is claimed to be Australia's biggest one-off sporting spectacle, gave warning that Coulthard and Hakkinen would face massive hostility from the 120,000 spectators in Melbourne if they planned another pre-race agreement.

"The crowd will be unforgiving," he said. "The people in these grandstands will boo on a scale that the drivers and teams have never heard before if the result is not fair and an outright victory.

"I have heard all the arguments about this being a team sport and that last year's result was part of that, but you cannot have a structured win in sport. You cannot afford to have a sport in which the result looks as though it has been rigged.

"People come to see these guys driving flat out, their engines burning out and overtaking. I am not saying it is a blood sport, but spectators expect to see drivers and teams giving everything to win, not deciding the result between them before they cross the line."

Walker's anger after the race last year forced Max Mosley, the president of the FIA, the sport's governing body, and Bernie Ecclestone, Formula One's ringmaster, to engage in 12 months of shuttle diplomacy to reassure Australians that they would not witness similar events again and help to underwrite the confidence of promoters who are putting nearly £23 million into the grand prix.

Team orders were outlawed by Mosley immediately after the 1998 race and he held a press conference here recently to quell fears of a repeat performance.

However, Ron Dennis, McLaren's team principal, is unrepentant and says that he reserves the right to decide how his team performs on the track because he wants maximum points for McLaren-Mercedes. He was also unsympathetic to the thousands of gamblers who bet on Coulthard to win last year, telling them Formula One was not a sport suited to betting. However, Walker added: "I have spoken to Ron Dennis and he knows that we do not want to see what happened last year in Melbourne this time around. There is a lot of money on this race this weekend. There are big screens up in the casinos and there are form guides to the drivers and their cars. People want to be able to bet on their heroes."

'You cannot have a sport in which the result looks to have been rigged'

Coulthard does not seem to be a man offering favours again. He acknowledged yesterday that his decision in Australia made a significant impact on his world title challenge last season and that he cannot afford another setback on that scale. "That first race did not help me in terms of the championship and every time I was leading after that, I seemed to have a mechanical problem," he said. "I am not just here to support my team-mate. I am here to win the race and, ultimately, the championship."

Though Coulthard, 27, has been attempting to keep a low profile in Australia, he has been sought out by almost every newspaper and television station simply because of his role the race last year. Every newspaper has a profile of the Scot, with or without an interview, and has posed the question whether Coulthard would move over again if ordered by Dennis.

That is the level of obsession in Australia with the result last year, although it caused a scandal on both sides of the world, particularly in Great Britain, where betting shops were inundated with angry punters who believed the result could not stand. Coulthard agreed to pull over only because he was leading the Finn after a team error called Hakkinen into the pits for an unscheduled stop.

However, Coulthard disclosed later that he had agreed with Hakkinen that the first driver to reach the first corner would be allowed to go on to win the race. He was surprised by the worldwide condemnation and has also never enjoyed a return favour from his team-mate, a chastening experience for Coulthard but one that might reassure Formula One's audience in the build-up to the first race of the new season.

SWIMMING

Australia demands fair share

From Craig Lord
in Imperia, Italy

TO JUDGE by the fixed-jaw determination on the face of Terry Gathercole, the president of the Australian Swimming Federation, the talking may well be tougher than the racing at the final round of the World Cup here.

If many of those who have trawled around the vastly extended 1998-99 World Cup looked travel weary as they emerged from airport buses, the silver-haired Gathercole, fresh off a flight from Melbourne, appeared to be fighting fit.

"I don't care if they do reduce the number of rounds, as long as we [Australia] get our two — that's what I'm here to achieve," he said in anticipation of the committee-room battle with European nations that looms at the annual World Cup meeting tomorrow. European nations favour a contraction of the series to a less expensive four or five events.

Gathercole agrees on a reduced number of meets, but he opposes a return to the days when the World Cup was essentially a Europe-based event. The extension to 12 rounds has also had the knock-on effect of swimmers being very selective about which of the 12 events they race at.

The headache in the small print of the rules is worse than it might have been for Fina, the international governing body: not only did Christian Keller, of Germany, who leads the medley category of the cup by a wide margin, not compete at the required two "off-continent" events, but the same shortfall applies to the seven men that follow him on the points table. That means that the US$10,000 first prize may be shared by three virtual unknowns. A decision on that is expected today.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Boston 97 New Jersey 99, Washington 91 Philadelphia 104, Charlotte 91 Toronto 88, New York 85 Cleveland 78, Orlando 70 Atlanta 67, Phoenix 91 LA Lakers 97, Sacramento 102 Seattle 105

EUROLEAGUE: Quarter-final, first leg: Efes Pilsen 73 CSKA Moscow 58

BOWLS

EXETER: EWIBA indoor championships: Champion of champions semi-finals: H Wall (Church Gresley) bt P Barn (Eastbourne) 21-16, T Burgess (Wellingborough) bt T Darnell-Langton (Loddon Vale) 21-15

CRICKET

First Test match

New Zealand v South Africa

AUCKLAND (fourth day of five): New Zealand, with all second-innings wickets in hand, need 265 runs to avoid an innings defeat by South Africa

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings 621 for 5 dec (D J Cullinan 275 not out, G Kirsten 128, S M Pollock 69 not out, J N Rhodes 63)

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings

R G Twose c Boucher b Donald	31
M J Horne b Adams	93
N J Astle c Boucher b Donald	41
C D McMillan c Boucher b Donald	25
C Z Harris not out	68
†A C Parore b Pollock	9
M D Bell b Klusener	6
*D J Nash c Boucher b Klusener	1
D L Vettori c Cronje b Adams	32
S B Doull c Gibbs b Adams	17
G I Allott c Pollock b Kallis	0
Extras (lb 21, w 2, nb 6)	29
Total	352

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-80, 2-170, 3-210, 4-210, 5-224, 6-241, 7-251, 8-288, 9-320

BOWLING: Donald 27-16-40-2, Pollock 29-11-51-1, Klusener 27-7-60-2, Adams 46-18-103-3, Kallis 21.4-10-44-1, Cullinan 2-2-8-0, Cronje 9-2-25-1

Second Innings

M J Horne not out	4
M D Bell not out	0
Total	4

BOWLING: Kallis 1-0-4-0

Umpires: D B Cowie (New Zealand) and D J Harper (Australia)

FOOTBALL

Uefa Cup

Quarter-finals, first leg

BOLOGNA (1) 3 **LYONS** (0) 0
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Monday's late results

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Leicester 1 Leeds 2.

TENNENT'S SCOTTISH CUP: Fourth round: Postponed: Clydebank v Dundee United

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Postponed: Reading v Arsenal.

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Postponed: Preston v Nottingham Forest, Stoke v Sunderland. **League cup: Quarter-final:** Tranmere 4 Huddersfield 1

OPTIMUM INTERIORS CAPITAL LEAGUE: Welling 2 Harrow Borough Res 2

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Bedlington 5 Easington 1

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS: Premier division: Waltham Abbey 6 Brimsdown 0

SCHWEPPES ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Ilford 2 Bowers 5

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Fourth round: Walsall 1 West Ham 4. **Fifth-round replay:** Everton 3 Sheffield Wednesday 1

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Calgary 1 San Jose 2, Colorado 3 Edmonton 4

LACROSSE

MILTON KEYNES: National schools tournament: Senior semi-finals: Wycombe Abbey 4 Cheltenham Ladies 1, Lady Eleanor Holles 2 Westonbirt 1. **Final:** Wycombe 6 Lady Eleanor 1. **Junior semi-finals:** St Paul's I 2 Guildford HS 0; Westonbirt 3 St Paul's II 2 (aet). **Final:** Westonbirt 0 St Paul's I 3

ROWING

OXFORD UNIVERSITY TORPIDS: Starting order: Men: Division I: Oriel, Pembroke, New College, Magdalen, Brasenose, Christ Church, Exeter, Lincoln, Worcester, University, Queen's, Oriel II. **Division II:** Wadham, St Catherine's, Trinity, St John's, Merton, St Peter's, Hertford, Lady Margaret Hall, Keble, Balliol, St Anne's, Jesus. **Division III:** Mansfield, Osler-Green, Linacre, Corpus Christi, Wolfson, Keble II, New College II, Pembroke II, Christ Church II, Magdalen II, University II, Balliol II. **Division IV:** St Hugh's, Oriel III, Somerville, Lincoln II, Brasenose II, LMH II, St John's II, St Edmund Hall II, St Anne's II, Worcester II, Wolfson II, Wadham II. **Division V:** Jesus II, Exeter II, St Catherine's II, Queen's II, St Peter's II, Merton II, St Benet's Hall, Hertford II, Oriel IV, Magdalen III, University III, University IV. **Division VI:** Trinity II, Regent's Park, Wolfson III, Linacre II, Pembroke III, Balliol III, St Edmund Hall II, Mansfield II, Christ Church III, Somerville II, Keble II, Exeter III, Christ Church IV. **Women: Division I:** Osler-Green, St Catherine's, New College, University, LMH, Trinity, Wadham, Oriel, Lincoln, Pembroke, Christ Church, Somerville. **Division II:** St John's, Wolfson, Merton, St Hilda's, St Edmund Hall, Queen's, Hertford, Jesus, Worcester, Magdalen, Balliol, Keble. **Division III:** St Peter's, Exeter, St Anne's, St Hugh's, Linacre, Mansfield, Corpus Christi, St Catherine's II, Wolfson II, LMH II, Wadham II, St Antony's. **Division IV:** Merton II, Somerville II, Pembroke II, St Hugh's II, Magdalen II, Oriel II, St Edmund Hall II, Christ Church II, New College II, St Anne's II, St John's II, St Hilda's II. **Division V:** Mansfield II, Lincoln II, Magdalen III, Christ Church III, Mansfield III, St Hilda's III, University II, LMH III, Keble II, Balliol II, Queen's II, Exeter II, University III.

SCHOOLS SPORT

HOCKEY: RAF West of England Finals: Under-18: Millfield 4 Dean Close 1. **Under-16:** Millfield 2 Bryanston 0. **Under-14:** Millfield 5 Dean Close 0

SQUASH

FINNISH OPEN: Women: Final: M Zein (Egypt) bt D Harris (Aus) 9-7, 9-1, 9-0

LEADING WOMEN'S WORLD RANKINGS: 1, M Martin (Aus); 2, S Fitz-Gerald (Aus); 3, S Wright (Eng); 4, C Jackman (Eng); 5, S Horner (Eng); 6, N Grainger (SA); 7, L Joyce (NZ); 8, S Schone (Ger); 9, C Owens (Aus); 10, L Charman (Eng).

TENNIS

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona: Franklin Templeton Classic: First round: F Vicente (Sp) bt J Stoltenberg (Aus) 7-6, 7-5; M Zabaleta (Arg) bt S Dosedel (Cz) 5-7, 6-2, 6-2; J Golmard (Fr) bt G Kuerten (Br) 6-3, 3-6, 6-3; J Gimelstob (US) bt T Muster (Austria) 6-4, 7-5; J-M Gambill (US) bt F Squillari (Arg) 3-6, 6-3, 6-4; P Rafter (Aus) bt A O'Brien (US) 6-3, 6-4; G Ivanisevic (Cro) bt S Draper (Aus) 5-7, 6-4, 6-1

LEADING MEN'S WORLD RANKINGS: 1, P Sampras (US) 3449pts; 2, Y Kafelnikov (Russ) 3382; 3, A Corretja (Sp) 3250; 4, C Moya (Sp) 3234; 5, P Rafter (Aus) 3138; 6, M Rios (Chile) 2880; 7, T Henman (GB) 2764; 8, R Krajicek (Holl) 2702; 9, A Agassi (US) 2583; 10, G Rusedski (GB) 2439.

SNOOKER

Wattana rediscovers successful formula

From Phil Yates in Bangkok

JAMES WATTANA, who has found inspiration hard to come by of late, delighted a capacity crowd at the Ambassador Hotel, Bangkok last night when he defeated Bradley Jones 5-3 in the first round of the Thailand Masters.

In December, Wattana wept on television here while being interviewed after his early elimination from the individual event of the Asian Games. A similarly embarrassing outcome looked probable when Jones, the world No 44, established a 3-1 lead.

The turning point arrived in the fifth frame. Jones missed a straightforward brown and an equally simple blue to a balk pocket. Wattana made the most of his reprieve by clearing blue to black and, thereafter, exhibited the confidence that had been sadly lacking in his game all season.

Wattana accounted for the sixth frame with a 132 total clearance and allowed Jones to score a total of only 13 points in the next two. The local hero now awaits Ken Doherty or Chan Wai Tat, of Hong Kong, in the last 16.

"I was quite impressed that so many people came to watch me because if I had played like I did at the Asian Games, it wouldn't have been worth them buying a ticket. I badly wanted to do well for my people," Wattana said.

While Wattana advanced, Tony Drago and Anthony Hamilton, two other members of the top 16 in the world rankings, failed to negotiate their initial hurdles.

Euan Henderson, of Glenrothes, beat Drago 5-4, despite suffering from a mosquito bite on his bridge hand. "I just happened to play better rubbish than Tony," Henderson said.

Hamilton was beaten 5-3 by Joe Swail, who, in recovering from a 3-1 deficit, compiled breaks of 48, 97, 74 and 68.

Peter Ebdon, the 1997 champion, almost joined the list of surprise casualties, but he made an exceptional 65 clearance to snatch the deciding frame and a 5-4 win over Paul Hunter on the black.

Stephen Lee recovered from the loss of the opening two frames to secure a place in the last 16 at the expense of Billy Snaddon.

FIRST ROUND: A Robidoux (Can) bt Q Hann (Aus) 5-1; E Henderson (Scot) bt A Drago (Malta) 5-4; S Lee (Eng) bt W Snaddon (Scot) 5-3; J Wattana (Thai) bt B Jones (Eng) 5-3; J Swail (N Ire) bt A Hamilton (Eng) 5-3; M King (Eng) bt J Burnett (Scot) 5-1; S Davis (Eng) bt D Dale (Wales) 5-2.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

European Cup

Quarter-finals, first leg

Bayern Munich v Kaiserslautern (7.45)
Juventus v Olympiakos (7.45)
Manchester Utd v Internazionale (7.45)
Real Madrid v Dynamo Kiev (7.45)

FA Carling Premiership

Sheffield Wed v Wimbledon (7.45)

Nationwide League

First division

Barnsley v Bradford (7.45)
QPR v Oxford Utd (7.45)
Swindon v Tranmere (7.45)

Scottish League

Third division

Dumbarton v Cowdenbeath

Tennents Scottish Cup

Fourth round

Clydebank v Dundee Utd (at Stirling FC)

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Southern division: St Leonards v Corby

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Challenge Cup: Second-round replay: Hucknall Town v Emley.

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Dagenham and Redbridge v Hampton (7.45). **First division:** Croydon v Maidenhead, Molesey v Chertsey

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Barnet v Watford (at Letchworth FC), Bournemouth v Northampton (2.0), Colchester v Gillingham (2.0); Southampton v Peterborough, Wimbledon v Cambridge, Wycombe v Brentford (2.0), Tottenham v Portsmouth (at St Albans F.C); West Ham v Millwall (2.0)

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Leicester v Birmingham (7.0). **First division:** Burnley v Manchester City (7.15), Grimsby v Port Vale (7.0), West Bromwich v Coventry (at Halesowen Town FC 7.0), Wolverhampton v Bolton (7.0). **Second division:** Lincoln v Scarborough (2.0), Notts County v Wrexham (2.0). **Third division:** Chester v Walsall (2.0), Chesterfield v Wigan (2.0), Hartlepool v Bury (7.0), Rochdale v Darlington (2.0). **League Cup: Quarter-final:** Stockport v York (at Hyde Utd FC, 7.0)

GILBERT LEAGUE CUP: Semi-final: Caernarfon v Bangor City (7.45)

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Chippenham v Odd Down, Elmore v Barnstaple

ENDSLEIGH CHALLENGE TROPHY: Semi-final: Farnborough v Cheltenham (7.45)

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Ettingshall v Ludlow Town, Stafford Town v Tividale; Star v Dudley Town.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Eastbourne Town v Hassocks.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE CUP: Third-round replay: Garforth Town v Thackley. **Fourth round:** Arnold Town v N Ferriby; Ossett Albion v Denaby; Selby v Ossett Town.

RUGBY UNION

MOBBS MEMORIAL MATCH: East Midlands v Barbarians (3.0).

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: North Midlands v RAF (at Worcester, 7.30)

CLUB MATCHES: Cambridge University v Penguins (7.15), Oxford University v Oxfordshire (7.30), Rosslyn Park v Royal Navy (7.30).

HOSPITALS' CUP: Final: Imperial Medicals v Guy's/King's/Thomas' (at London Welsh, 2.45)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Derby Storm v Leicester Riders (8.0)

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: Ayr Scottish Eagles v Newcastle Riverkings (7.30).

SNOW REPORTS

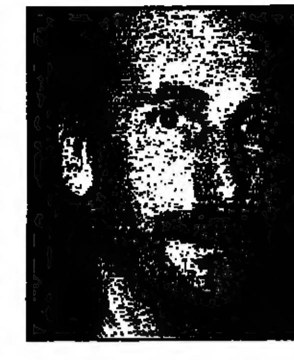
SKI CLUB

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Piste	Conditions Runs to Resort	Off/p	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
Austria								
Obergurgl	80	300	Good	Slushy	Heavy	Fair	4	24/2
St Anton	140	550	Fair	Open	Heavy	Cloud	4	24/2
Canada								
Lake Louise	153	168	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	-3	1/3
France								
Alpe d'Huez	162	310	Fair	Slushy	Heavy	Fair	5	24/2
Avoriaz	300	320	Slushy	Slushy	Heavy	Fair	3	1/3
La Clusaz	90	340	Good	Slushy	Varied	Fair	9	24/2
La Plagne	185	285	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	-2	24/2
La Tania	169	293	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	5	24/2
Les Arcs	185	316	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	6	1/3
Tignes	178	300	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	-4	24/2
Val Thorens	200	250	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	1	26/2
Val d'Isère	132	320	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	0	24/2
Valmorel	130	295	Good	Open	Varied	Fair	1	24/2
Italy								
Cervinia	120	200	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	1	1/3
Cortina	45	65	Fair	Open	Heavy	Sun	3	22/2
Livigno	70	177	Good	Slushy	Crusty	Fine	8	24/2
M di Campiglio	40	90	Fair	Slushy	Spring	Fine	6	22/2
Norway								
Geilo	70	80	Good	Open	Heavy	Sun	3	26/2
Switzerland								
Crans Montana	130	310	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	5	24/2
Davos	185	310	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	1	2/3
Grindelwald	50	250	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	5	24/2
Klosters	185	310	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	4	2/3
Murren	120	400	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	8	24/2
St Moritz	85	145	Good	Open	Varied	Fair	5	24/2
Verbier	95	195	Good	Open	Spring	Sun	3	24/2
Villars	100	310	Good	Open	Crusty	Cloud	3	24/2
Wengen	150	200	Good	Open	Heavy	Cloud	7	24/2
Zermatt	95	250	Good	Open	Spring	Sun	3	24/2
United States								
Aspen	120	150	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	3	27/2
Deer Valley	220	220	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	4	23/2

http://www.skiclub.co.uk — L = lower slopes; U = upper slopes

Smokescreen conceals bitter truth





Midweek View

The Formula One motor racing season kicks off this weekend under a cloud of moral confusion. Debate continues with the various participants coughing and spluttering on their own self-righteousness, while a new team launches itself with in-your-face, up-yours defiance.

The most evil thing on earth is tobacco sponsorship in sport. So I have read, anyway. Formula One has for years ridden its tobacco sponsorship very prettily: it somehow managed to pretend that tobacco is nothing to do with sport at all, while at the same time taking in huge sums of money from tobacco companies.

But this charming disingenuousness has been wrongfooted by the British American Tobacco team. This is not a car with fag logo stuck on top: tobacco is the heart and soul of the enterprise. The team has upset everybody by its noisy posturing: and its cars have been painted to look like not one but two different fag packets.

Why is tobacco sponsorship immoral? Not a terribly hard question. Tobacco is a dangerous drug: the ultimate consumer product in that it serves no function but to get a person addicted. Tobacco can kill you; it shortens your life; it affects other people's health; it affects the health of the unborn.

All quite good reasons for banning not just tobacco sponsorship, but tobacco itself. So, naturally, the brash new fag-car has focused all kinds of moral disapproval on to Formula One. The immorality of peddling fags is recognised all over Europe, with bans on television advertising, controls on poster and display advertising, all kinds of legislation on how tobacco logos are displayed in sport.

Some sports wouldn't touch tobacco sponsorship at all. Imagine a football team running about with Marlboro logos all over their shirts. It would be considered quite unacceptable. And rightly so, too.

So let us push things a little bit further. How about cannabis sponsorship in sport? Liverpool sponsored by Red Leb? Or Chelsea sponsored by Blue Microdot LSD? Or how about a nice upmarket cocaine sponsorship: glory-hunters go for coke and Manchester United? Can't you just see the lads running out tonight with the words Colombian Marching Powder emblazoned on their chests?

Well, no, you can't. It won't happen. All the above are dangerous drugs. They kill, they wreck lives, they can destroy not only the takers but those with whom the takers are in contact.

No wonder the drugs are illegal.

It is ridiculous even to consider sport accepting sponsorship from a drug that is even more dangerous than tobacco. Let us consider a typically dangerous drug: one to which people get seriously addicted. In the ravages of this drug, users often commit assault. Users are prone to accidents that kill themselves and very often other people.

Vast number of head injuries can be attributed to the effects of this drug. Regular and heavy use of the drug causes people to destroy themselves: professional and private lives fall apart. Psychological and physiological problems go with heavy use. The drug has destroyed great people and small: it has wrecked the lives of many people who come into contact with the users.

The drug is lethal: infinitely more dangerous than tobacco. Who, after all, runs amok on a packet of twenty? This drug is so absurdly dangerous that you would surely never find such a drug actually legal — still less playing an active part in sports sponsorship.

Except by now you will have guessed what I am driving at.

Alcohol. Desperately dangerous, but granted exemption from sanction, because it is the West's drug of choice. The FA Carling Premiership is the main football competition; the Worthington Cup is the present name for the league cup. Rugby union contests the Tetley's Bitter Cup; the England cricket team was until recently sponsored by the same company. Martell sponsor the Grand National.

A vast amount of sport is sponsored by this genuinely dangerous drug. I gave up smoking, but I have no intention of giving up drink. Most of us would agree that sensible drinking is one of life's pleasures: yes and comforts.

The price we pay for our civilised drinking is the pain and misery and injury and death of those who drink foolishly, or those whose lives are touched by those who drink foolishly. And we have all drunk foolishly in our time.

The fact is that the great hoo-ha about tobacco sponsorship is a great blind. Its effect is to cover up the West's vast cultural and fiscal investment in alcohol. If tobacco sponsorship is immoral, then alcohol sponsorship is a great deal more so. But it is the nature of our culture to reject this and to turn our anger to the softer target of tobacco. It is what addicts call Denial.

Jackson was deprived of the world indoor title in Toronto six years ago and fears he might suffer the same fate in Japan. Photograph: Nick Ray

Jackson aims gun at starters

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, IN MAEBASHI, JAPAN

THE last time Japan hosted a global championship, it witnessed arguably the best 100 metres seen to this day. Yet the 1991 world final in Tokyo, won by Carl Lewis with Linford Christie fourth, should never have been allowed. The reaction time given to Dennis Mitchell, who finished third, indicated a false start.

Eight years on, the scene shifts from Tokyo to the Maebashi Green Dome, 70 miles north of the capital. Beginning on Friday, the seventh world indoor championships take place here and, for one British athlete, who has suffered more false start injustices than most, only victory will do.

Colin Jackson is just two pieces short of a perfect jigsaw. In a senior career now in its fourteenth year — with only one to go before he hangs up his championship spikes — Jackson has achieved everything in athletics except world indoor and Olympic titles. This is his last crack at a world indoor championship, so he dare not fail.

Jackson has won world, European and Commonwealth sprint hurdles titles outdoors, European gold medals indoors and holds two world records that have stood the test of time. His outdoor 110 metres hurdles world record was set in 1993, his 60 metres hurdles indoor mark in 1994. Now, for the first time in five years, Jackson feels that he can challenge those marks.

Approaching his best form again, the Welshman is among the firmest of favourites here. If only it was mere athletes he had to beat. What worries him is the man with the pistol. Starters are a breed no more likely to win praise from Jackson than referees are from David Mellor. Will the hired gun blow holes in his chances yet again?

Jackson should not still be waiting for his first world indoor title. Six years ago, in the world final in Toronto, Jackson was left with the silver medal after Mark McKoy won on a home-town decision. McKoy, of Canada, showed a reaction time of 0.053sec. The rulebook indicates that a getaway quicker than 0.100sec should not be permitted, the theory being that anything faster is anticipation of the gun rather than reaction to it.

Last September, in the World Cup in Johannesburg, Jackson was beaten into second place when Falk Balzer, from Germany, got a proven flyer (0.031sec). When the same happened again in Munich last month, the normally jovial Jackson blew his top. "I have never known him so angry," Malcolm Arnold, Jackson's coach throughout his career, said.

Then, almost unbelievably, Jackson was the victim of another questionable start two weeks ago, losing a race he should have won in the Birmingham grand prix. This time, he reacted phlegmatically. "It just seems to happen all the time," he said.

Such is the extent to which the issue is playing on Jackson's mind that he intends to seek out the officials here "to make sure they use the equipment correctly and heed the rules". But what are the rules? So ambiguous are they that Jackson and Arnold's reading of them differ from the International Amateur Athletic Federation's (IAAF) interpretation.



'Will the man with the pistol blow a hole in his chances again?'

In responding to criticism of the World Cup race, Istvan Gyulai, the IAAF secretary, wrote in the world governing body's November newsletter: "The starter is the sole judge of any fact connected with the start." In other words, he may ignore the acoustic signal in his headphones, which indicates whether an athlete has beaten 0.100sec. "No protest is allowed," Gyulai added.

However, a British starter, Dave Cremin, wrote to *The Times*, baffled. "Rule 123.1 does suggest that the starter is the sole judge of fact and, as such cannot be overruled, but, at the same time, directs the reader to Rule 162.10. You will note that in Rule 123.6 recallers are obliged to recall a race if any fault is observed. In Rule 162.10, it says that, if a starter hears a signal from the false start apparatus, there shall be a recall.

"All this all goes out of the window, however, when it transpires that even the international jury of appeal will not consider a query concerning a start. It has been suggested that they might have the power to consider such an appeal, but, in practice, chicken out of doing so."

The refusal to recall Balzer's false start in Johannesburg cost Jackson $30,000 (£18,000) in prize-money and a similar mistake here, with $50,000 (£30,000) for the winner, could prove an expensive one for Jackson. "Whatever the rules are, the IAAF should tell the starters," he said. "Let the IAAF enforce them because, these days, it is not just costing me a medal, but finance as well.

"I am sick to death of picking up silver medals under these circumstances. They should tell the starters that if they do not do this particular thing in these particular circumstances, they will be fined. I lose finance, why shouldn't they?"

Jackson is 32, the age at which Linford Christie, his former business partner, became an Olympic champion. Jackson knows that he still has it in him to be the best again — the Sydney Olympics will be his last championships before winding down towards retirement — but also that he does not have long.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 36

TIMBER HITCH

(b) The tie or knot used to secure the bowstring in the lower nock of a traditional longbow. It will not slip under tension and is very simple to adjust, should the length of the string need modification.

KATABATIC WIND

(b) This mountain breeze occurs when a layer of cool air flows by gravity under a warmer layer. The cooling occurs on a clear night because of LW radiation near the ground, and the result is a warmer layer above, ie an inversion. Given a slope in the ground, cool air will flow downwards. This is the Katabatic Wind.

CABRIOLE

(b) A jumping step in ballet. The dancer raises the working leg to front, side or back, jumps off the supporting leg, and brings it up to beat beneath the other.

DIARMALT

(b) In Celtic mythology, the lover of Grainne, the betrothed of Finn, by whom he was slain, in spite of the efforts of August to save him.

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE

1 Bf6! prevents Black making a bolt hole for his king with ... f6 and leaves him defenceless against 2 Qh4 and mate along the h-file.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Cross-Channel decorating



Will the Reds triumph? Manchester United v Internazionale (ITV/Talk Radio)

Changing Rooms
BBC1, 8pm

My initial disbelief that the French (who are apparently either obsessed with the most chi-chi home decoration or entirely dismissive of the concept) would willingly participate in this knockabout series was confirmed when it became clear that the interfering neighbours are British couples who have acquired second homes in the Pas de Calais. Lawrence Llewelyn-Bowen is in his Louis XIV element, and Linda Barker makes inspired use of some less-than-promising materials. The resulting rooms are declared perfectly attuned to the owners' requirements, so *tout va bien*, it seems, although Andy Kane seems less and less tractable.

A Living Hell
BBC2, 11.15pm

Professor Lewis Wolpert presents a BBC Education series on depression, a condition which one in five people will encounter at some point, with 5 per cent of the population suffering from clinical depression at any one time. As the Professor points out, most of us who have not experienced it are inclined to doubt its existence as an illness at all, suggesting that those who have it should "pull themselves together". His own experience, during which he was treated in hospital, suicidal after his wife's death, adds considerably to the power and persuasiveness of his presentation. The journalist and agony aunt Virginia Ironside also talks movingly and vividly of her own experience of the condition. A free, confidential helpline will be open, after the programme until 2am and tomorrow between 9am and 3pm, on 0800 888809.

Modern Times: Living Room
BBC2, 9pm

Unlike in yesterday's *House Proud*, the homebuyers in this film are not looking to build their own. They are shown choosing and settling in to a 550-house development just off the M20 in Kent. Kings Hill prefers to think of itself as a village, complete with primary school, a green and a "prestigious" golf course, over which the more select properties have a view. There are also security guards, and rules about the colour of your front door and where you keep your bins. Jess Search's film centres on Crest Homes' plan to add another 53 houses. These, adjoining the golf course, will necessarily alter existing houses' outlook . . .

ER: Masquerade
Channel 4, 9pm

It's Hallowe'en, and there's a party in the medical student dormitory: you somehow just know things will go badly wrong. And they do. Meanwhile, there's some bad news for Greene (Anthony Edwards) on the personal front (can't be anything about being the highest-paid actor in the world, now that George Clooney has finished working on the series): it's about his divorce and a relocation for wife and daughter. There's also some bad news of a professional nature for Weaver (Laura Innes): her rival for the top job is a New York hotshot. There's more shock news for the parents of a little girl brought in after a car accident; it seems that she may not be all that she seems. **Tony Patrick**

RADIO CHOICE

The Ramp
Radio 4, 9pm

Peter Day is the BBC Business Correspondent and he has just spent three years putting together this series on the development of a new microchip. All we can hope now is that we do not hear, halfway through the first broadcast, the announcement: "This programme has performed an illegal operation and will be shut down." If the subject sounds dry it is in fact a fascinating one, for semiconductors are developed and produced in conditions that would impress a hospital surgeon: these fabrication plants, inevitably known as fabs, cost nearly £1 billion each and lay claim to having the cleanest air in the world. The workers wear moon-walk type suits that prevent the surface of the chips becoming damaged by their breathing.

Manchester United v Internazionale
Talk Radio, 7pm

Those of us who support the North London club that George Graham used to manage have been fervently backing Manchester United in Europe this season in the hope that they will become too absorbed to bother with the FA Carling Premiership title. So far, this policy is not working as well as one might have hoped, but we are a patient lot. Inter come to the "Theatre of Dreams" with a team of all the talents, even if Ronaldo is injured and unlikely to start. This is the first leg of the quarter-final and Talk's commentary team, Alan Parry, Andy Gray and Richard Keys, have shown this season that they have the command of hyperbole as well the expertise to convey the occasion's excitement. The kick-off is at 7.45pm. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00pm** Jo Whiley **2.00** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Chris Moyles **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Dave Pearce. Future hits and anthems **8.00** Steve Lamacq: The Evening Session **10.00** Movie Update with Mark Kermode **10.10** John Peel **12.00am** Gilles Peterson **2.00** Clive Warren **4.00** Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00pm** Juliet Morris **2.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Nick Barraclough **8.00** Mike Harding **9.00** Berry Gordy's Motown (2/4) **10.00** Top of the Pops 2 on 2 **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.00am** Lynn Parsons **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00pm** The Midday News **1.00** Ruscoe and Co **4.00** Drive **7.00** News Extra **7.30** John Inverdale's Football Night. Coverage of the European Cup quarter-finals. Plus, news of Sheffield Wednesday v Wimbledon in the Premiership and tonight's first division programme **10.00** Littlejohn **11.00** Late Night Live **1.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm & Sally James **12.00pm** Let's Talk Pets **1.00** Anna Raeburn **4.00** The Sports Zone **7.00** Manchester United v Internazionale — Live. See Choice **10.30** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

VIRGIN

6.30am Russ Williams **9.30** Mark Forrest **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **8.45** Pete and Geoff **10.00** James Merritt **1.00am** Steve Power **4.30** Richard Allen

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Outlook **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** Westway **8.20** Off the Shelf: Captain Corelli's Mandolin **8.35** One Planet **9.00** World News **9.05** Sounds Right **9.20** World Ranking **9.50** Sports Round-Up **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Britain Today **10.45** Legal World **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Sports International **12.00pm** World News **12.05** Outlook **12.45** Sports Round-Up **1.00** Newshour **2.00** World News **2.05** One Planet **2.30** Meridian Live **3.00** World News **3.05** Sports Round-Up **3.15** From Our Own Correspondent **3.30** Jazzmatazz **4.00** World News **4.15** Insight **4.30** Multitrack: X -Press **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Round-Up **6.00** World News **6.15** Britain Today **6.30** Sports International **7.00** World News **7.05** One Planet **7.30** Legal World **7.45** Off the Shelf: Captain Corelli's Mandolin **8.00** Newshour **9.00** World News **9.05** World Business Report **9.20** Britain Today **9.30** On Screen **10.00** World News **10.15** Sports Round-Up **10.30** Multitrack: X-Press **11.00** World News **11.05** Outlook **11.45** Insight **12.00am** The World Today **12.30** One Planet **12.55** My Century **1.00** The World Today **1.30** Meridian Live **2.00** The World Today **2.30** Everywoman **3.00** The World Today **3.20** Sports Round-Up **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Soothing music and information updates **8.00** Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour and CD of the Week **12.00pm** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones spins listeners' favourites **2.00** Concerto. Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 3 in C minor) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Including Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance **6.30** Newsnight. Headlines, arts news and guests **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces easy-listening sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Bach (Triple Concerto in A minor); Schubert (Mass No 5 in A flat, Missa Solemnis; Offertorium in B flat major); Benda (Flute Concerto in E minor) **11.00** Mann at Night. Music through till the small hours **2.00am** Concerto. Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 3 in C minor) (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths. The Early Break fast Show

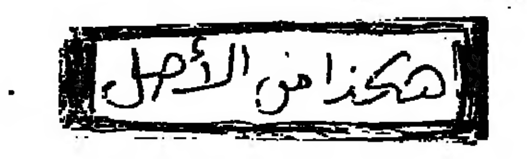
RADIO 3

6.00am On Air Petroc Trelawny with arts news and music, including Bruch's *Kol nidrei* performed by Lynn Harrell, cello, and the Philharmonia under Vladimir Ashkenazy
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Verdi (La traviata, Prelude to Act 1); Liszt, orch Adams (The Black Gondola); Schubert (Piano Sonata in A, D959); Verdi (Re dell'abisso, Un ballo in maschera); Prokofiev (Suite: Summer Night)
10.30 Artist of the Week: Bernard Haitink
11.00 Sound Stories: Family Affairs Peggy Reynolds talks about the Sitwells
12.00pm Composer of the Week: Tchaikovsky
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Fibonacci Sequence. Ravel (Introduction and Allegro for harp, flute, clarinet and string quartet); Varese (Density 21.5 for solo flute); Debussy (Premiere rhapsodie for clarinet and piano); Faure (Piano Quintet No 2 in C minor, Op 115)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC Symphony Orchestra under Jiri Belohlavek and Jukka-Pekka Saraste. Christian Tetzlaff, violin. Schumann (Overture: Genoveva); Sibelius (Symphony No 3; Violin Concerto); Dvorak (Symphony No 8 in G)
4.00 Choral Evensong Live from Salisbury Cathedral. Director of music Simon Lole. Organist David Halls
5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty's guests are the Cardinall's Musick, who perform music written for Cardinal Wolsey
7.30 Performance on 3: Beyond Our Shores Concluding a concert series from Glasgow. Pierre-Laurent Aimard, piano, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Martyn Brabbins. Copland (El salon Mexico); Ligeti (Piano Concerto); Stravinsky (Song of the Nightingale); Ravel (Suite: Mother Goose)
9.05 Postscript: Cultural Nationalism Joe Farrell reports from Barcelona (3/5)
9.30 Wolf Peter Schreier, tenor, and Karl Engel, piano, perform a selection of Wolf's *Morike Lieder*
10.00 Ensemble Continuing the celebrations marking the centenary of Francis Poulenc
10.45 Night Waves Patrick Wright talks to Kary Mullis, the Nobel Prize-winner for chemistry
11.30 Jazz Notes Alyn Shipton investigates jazz violinists
12.00am Composer of the Week: Copland (r)
1.00 Through the Night with Donald Macleod. **1.00** Ensemble Weser Renaissance and La Cappella Ducale perform motets and dialogues by some of the composers working in the cities of the Hanseatic League during the 17th century **2.45** Otto Taubmann (Melinconia) **3.00** Schools: Time and Tune **3.20** Together **3.40** Dance Workshop **4.00** The Song Tree **4.20** Scottish Resources 10-12 **4.40** Talking Points **5.00** Valerius (Mrs Mary Hofman's Almand) **5.10** Liszt (Hungarian Rhapsody No 14 in F minor) **5.20** Mozart (Quintet in E flat, K452) **5.50** Heinrich Bach (Ich danke dir, Gott)

RADIO 4

5.30am World News **5.35 Shipping Forecast**
5.40 Inshore Forecast **5.45 Prayer for the Day**
5.47 Farming Today Rural issues, with Ashley Gething
6.00 Today Presented by James Naughtie
6.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament Round-up of political developments
9.00 Midweek Lively conversation with the *Times* columnist Libby Purves and guests
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
9.45 (FM) Serial: Zarafa Third part
10.00 Woman's Hour with Jenni Murray and guests
11.00 Crufts How contestants prepare themselves and their pets for the world's biggest dog show (2/3)
11.30 Tomorrow at the Same Time Jeffrey Robinson traces the history of the American radio soap operas. Last in series (r)
12.00pm (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News 12.04 You and Yours Consumer news and investigations, presented by Mark Whittaker and Trixie Rawlinson
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 Inspiration! New series. Adam Hart-Davis, Johnny Ball, Len Fisher and Kevin Warwick join Chris Stuart at the Science Museum to explore the world of innovations, discoveries and inventions
2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: Women on Love — Lonely Hearts The tale of a lonely business woman who decides to try out a dating agency. Starring Tessa-Peake Jones and Douglas Hodge
3.00 Gardeners' Question Time Postal queries are resolved by a team of experts (r)
3.30 First Nights The debut of a trapeze artist who left her cosy job in marketing to join the circus(r)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Anna Massey narrates part 43 of the history of Britain (r)
4.00 All in the Mind Professor Anthony Clare explores the limits of the human mind
4.30 Thinking Allowed Laurie Taylor and guests think the unthinkable about society
5.00 PM with Clare English and Chris Lowe
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Ballylenon Christopher Fitz-Simon's comedy drama. Stumpy fights to save his job at Lough Swilly Railway. Starring T.P. McKenna, Margaret D'Arcy and Stella McCusker (r)
7.00 The Archers
7.15 Front Row Mark Lawson investigates English eccentricity in the arts
7.45 The Cry of the Bittern Part 13, by Tim Jackson. Broadcast earlier as part of *Woman's Hour* (r)
8.00 The Moral Maze Michael Buerk presents ethical debate, with David Starkey, Janet Daley, Ian Hargreaves and David Cook
8.45 Lent Talks: The Dove Descending Angela Lambert shares her views on mortality
9.00 The Ramp See Choice
9.30 Midweek Broadcast earlier
10.00 The World Tonight Presented by Justin Webb
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Ernest Hemingway Centenary — The Sun Also Rises John Sharian reads Hemingway's acclaimed novel
11.00 Late Night on 4: Truly, Madly, Bletchley Julian Dutton's comedy. With Liz Fraser, Peter Hugo-Daly and guest Cleo Rocos (4/6)
11.15 MacFlintock's Palace Mr MacFlintock holidays at the seaside. Comedy set around a Victorian music-hall, written and performed by Mark McDonnell and Steven McNicoll (4/6)
11.30 (FM) Mammon (3/6) (r)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Political update
12.00am News 12.30 The Late Book: Five Stories by Anton Chekhov Alistair McGowan reads *The Old House*, about a property evoking traumatic memories (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast **1.00 As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.



So you want to be a Hollywood player?

When Mel Brooks suggested that anybody can direct a movie, but that there are only 11 good writers, he probably couldn't have guessed just how many people ache to be the twelfth. In last night's **Close Up: LA Stories** (BBC2) — a beguiling documentary about Brits who have packed their laptops for Hollywood, hoping to make it as screenwriters — James Nutt and Roder Parsons reminded us that 45,000 film scripts are registered every year in Hollywood.

Working on the relevant actuarial multiples of films registered to films half-written, there must be at least four million screenwriters out there who have got past the opening-page "Exterior. . New York. Jack stubs out his cigarette and hails a cab" stage; and a further 487 million people who believe they could write a screenplay if only they could wangle a week off work to polish one off.

But fewer than 200 movies get made each year in Hollywood, too many of them starring Demi Moore. Considering that watching most of these is less fun than trimming a lawn with your bare teeth, it goes to show you how difficult screenwriting must be.

Not that you can rely on the judgment of a Hollywood studio executive to have chosen the best ones: in his autobiography, *Ways Of Escape*, Graham Greene recalled how Sam Zimbalist asked him if he could spruce up the most recent rewrite of the final part of the screenplay for *Ben Hur*, because the studio felt there was "a kind of anticlimax after the Crucifixion".

Even now, on a film set, the writer ranks lower than the caterer. You had only to watch how Miles Millar — one of the 20,000 Brits in Los Angeles — had to struggle to get in to the Hollywood premiere of *Lethal Weapon 4*. Millar, who works with an American writing partner, got a story credit for *Lethal Weapon 4*. While Mel Gibson and George Clooney pranced down the red carpet into the foyer, Millar was negotiating with the lady checking tickets at the tradesman's entrance.

Maybe he was trying to impress his girlfriend, who had flown in from London to share his triumph, but it was a mistake to tell the check-in lady that he was one of the movie's writers. The poor woman had to fight to suppress her snorts of pity. She'd have sniggered less if he'd gone up and said, "Hi, I'm Miles, and I have piles the size of pomegranates."

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

And Millar's one of the successes. He sold his first script, straight out of film school, for a $1million. He's reached the stage where a studio executive will meet him for a cranberry juice by a hotel swimming pool, listen to his film pitch, screw his eyes into the middle distance as if imagining it on screen, and then ask the key cinematic poser: "If we bought this Tuesday, how soon would it take you to write it?"

Yet trying to stake a claim in this goldrush town — where the surest way to make money, to judge by the shopfronts, is to set up a photocopy shop Xeroxing everyone's scripts — is Tina Jenkins. Fresh off the London plane, Tina's determined to write "Nine Lives", a movie about a man who turns into a cat. Think this sounds kooky? Well, Sacha Gervasi, a British graduate of UCLA's screenwriting class, has co-written a comedy about a gay Scottish hairdresser who comes to LA to compete in the world hairdressing championship. And Gervasi's script is BEING FILMED, by Warner Bros. Gervasi's script created a buzz, which spawned a bidding war. Buzz sells. "This is a town that really knows only hot or cold," one agent explains, "not good or bad."

For all its health warnings — you'd make surer money buying scratchcards than as a screenwriter — this was an affectionate, uncynical documentary, evidently made by people who are themselves bewitched by the glamour, myths and mystique of Hollywood. Who isn't? Californian sunshine pours through windows; writers' bedrooms look on to sunny swimming pools: sleazy downtown Hollywood appears here like a place you might actually be willing to walk through at night without an SAS bodyguard. *LA Stories* is likely to be as intoxicating as a narcotic to those who already itch to see their name in lights, even if they know in their hearts that the only thing Steven Spielberg is ever likely to say to them is, "I'll have a Big Mac, large fries, with a chocolate shake, to go".

Hoping to bring Hollywood pizazz to personal finance, BBC2 last night launched **Your Money or Your Life**, starring Alvin Hall. This New Yorker represents television's latest attempt to find a personal finance presenter who doesn't look like an accountant. Channel 4 scored a big hit with *Mrs Cohen* — a Dr Ruth who talked about Tessas instead of testosterone. Hall is a poor man's Samuel L. Jackson. He campily cajoles spendthrifts into dumping their mobiles and cutting up their credit cards, and says things like "black pants are black pants no matter how many you have". Natalie had five. Alvin told her two would do. But this is pretty rich coming from a man who owns 48 coats; like being given beauty tips by Boris Karloff.

Another new series, **House Proud** (BBC2), shows us people who decide to build their own homes. Someone should tell them about estate agents. Building your own house in Britain is like prospecting for oil in your back garden when there's a petrol station down the road. It's painful enough keeping an eye on builders when they are in your own house. Watching builders mess up the houses of complete strangers is as exciting as combing a child's head for lice. Unless *Schadenfreude* is your thing, in which case you'll probably find *House Proud* fascinating.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (67406)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (36203)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (2951883)
9.45 The Vanessa Show (T) (7419845)
10.55 News; Weather (T) (3400609)
11.00 Change That (3410086)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (3480845)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (7368883)
12.00pm Call My Bluff (81864)
12.30 Wipeout (4934241)
12.55 The Weather Show (T) (53078241)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (39390)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (59907116)
1.40 Neighbours Lance struggles to repay his debts (T) (35047574)
2.05 Ironside The Chief reopens a seven-year-old murder case (r) (5268319)
2.55 Through the Keyhole (r) (T) (4566834)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6804116) **3.45** Little Monsters (5468715) **3.50** ChuckleVision (4892661) **4.10** See It, Saw It (5834970) **4.35** The Wild House (3488319) **5.00** Newsround (4143845) **5.10** Blue Peter (9830932)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (358339)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (83)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (35)
7.00 Holiday on a Shoestring Craig Doyle visits Corfu and Michael McNally travels to Disneyland Paris (T) (4932)
7.30 Tomorrow's World A pioneering device to prevent brain damage in babies, and a new technique to extend the shelf-life of fresh produce (T) (19)



Carol Smillie takes the redecorating show across the Channel (8pm)

8.00 CHOICE **Changing Rooms** Two French farmhouses are renovated (T) (3680)
8.30 Comic Relief Jukebox Vintage clips of *Harry Enfield and Chums*, and a chance for viewers to vote for their favourite comedy duos (4/6) (T) (383241)
8.50 The National Lottery: Greatest Hits New entertainment show, replaying the lottery's best moments (T) (252932)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News. Weather (T) (7721)
9.29 National Lottery Update (766086)
9.30 Jasper Carrott: Back to the Front Stand-up comedy (2/6) (T) (29512)
10.00 The X Files Mulder finds his life in jeopardy when he goes undercover to capture a terrorist (T) (840390)
10.50 Ruby Wax Meets Bette Midler and Liza Minelli Ruby chats to the Hollywood megastars (r) (T) (235654)
11.20 Snapshot The controversial fashion designer Andrew Groves (T) (249715)
11.50 As Good As Dead (1995) Premiere FILM A woman trades identities with her best friend so that she can use her medical insurance, but doesn't count on the consequences. With Traci Lords. Directed by Larry Cohen (T) (544512)
1.10am Weather (1490742)
1.15 BBC News 24 (93820704)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Pingu (7879864) **7.05** Teletubbies (3186244) **7.30** Snorks (8731777) **7.50** The Really Wild Show (3849048) **8.18** Rewind (3280319) **8.20** Taz-Mania (5437338) **8.40** Polka Dot Shorts (1485086) **8.50** Pingu (1474970) **9.00** Images (7003086) **9.10** What? Where? When? Why? (7083222) **9.25** The Art (4741512) **9.45** Words and Pictures (8112222) **10.00** Teletubbies (34357) **10.30** Numbertime (9664796) **10.45** Cats' Eyes (9652951) **11.00** Around Scotland (3680796) **11.20** Geography Programme (3537796) **11.40** Science in Action (6918777) **12.00pm** Revista (5633338) **12.15** Hallo aus Berlin (4453680) **12.30** Working Lunch (95690) **1.00** Brum (68304116)
1.10 The House Detectives A terraced house in Dorset (r) (41135512)
1.40 Hart-Davis on History Grantham in Lincolnshire (35068067)
2.10 Awash with Colour (56828116)
2.40 News; Weather (T) (3672406)
2.45 Westminster (T) (5347593)
3.50 News; Weather (T) (6524593)
3.55 Kaye (9857883)
4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (6543628)
4.55 Esther (r) (T) (5528609)
5.30 Today's the Day (T) (12)
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation A woman is chosen by her people to serve as a peace offering (r) (T) (954999)
6.45 Buffy the Vampire Slayer Buffy meets a ventriloquist's dummy she suspects is stealing organs from performers in a talent show (T) (358086)
7.30 Sophie Grigson's Herbs The uses of parsley (T) (61)
8.00 University Challenge Balliol v Birkbeck. With Jeremy Paxman (T) (1222)
8.30 Looking Good The fashion forecaster Martin Raymond explains the merits of tailor-made suits (T) (9947)
9.00 CHOICE **Living Room** The making and selling of the suburban development Kings Hill (T) (859512)



A film following *Vogue* magazine's launch in Russia (9.50pm)

9.50 Trouble at the Top Report on the multimillion-pound launch of *Vogue* in post-Communist Russia (T) (603796)
10.30 Newsnight With Jeremy Paxman (T); Video Nation Shorts (710845)
11.15 CHOICE **A Living Hell** New series exploring clinical depression. With Professor Lewis Wolpert (861203)
11.55 Weather (161690)
12.00am Despatch Box (62075)
12.30 BBC Learning Zone: Open University. The Chemistry of Creation **1.00** The Chemistry of the Invisible **1.30** The Chemistry of Creativity **2.00** Schools. Dance **4.00** Languages **5.00** Business and Training **5.45** Open University: Is Seeing Believing? **6.10** Organelles and Origins **6.35** Enzymes

HTV

5.30am ITN Morning News (10086)
6.00 GMTV (5115241)
9.25 Trisha (T) (8347970)
10.30 This Morning (T) (44969864)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (4457406)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (T) (95636)
1.00 WEST: Next Stop Richard Wyatt, Polly Lloyd and correspondents review local news live from Sandford (64086)
1.00 WALES: Shortland Street Marj is reprimanded (64086)
1.30 Home and Away Tom becomes the hero of the hour (T) (33715)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous and uninhibited US talk show (T) (5744932)
2.45 Wheel of Fortune (T) (410357)
3.15 ITN News Headlines (T) (4190574)
3.20 HTV News (T) (4120715)
3.25 CITV: Mopatop's Shop (4110338) **3.35** Teddybears (9163951) **3.45** Jumanji (9831845) **4.10** Whizziwig (6516574) **4.40** Mad for It (2416512)
5.10 A Country Practice Tom is taken hostage (7202609)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News; Weather (T) (656628)
5.59 HTV Crimestoppers (603777)
6.00 Home and Away Tom becomes the hero of the hour (r) (T) (981067)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight; Weather (T) (828135)
6.25 WEST: HTV Weather (220593)
6.30 WEST: The West Tonight (T) (13)
7.00 Emmerdale Viv takes decisive action over Donna (T) (9628)
7.30 The Big Match — Live! Manchester United v Inter Milan (kick-off **7.45pm**). Coverage of the first leg of the long-awaited European Cup quarter-final tie from Old Trafford, with commentary by Clive Tyldesley (T) (95756932)
9.45 Coronation Street Alison reports Kevin missing (T) (390154)
10.15 News at Ten; Weather (T) (382135)
10.45 HTV News and Weather (T) (132951)



Murray Walker reveals his favourite Formula One moments (10.55pm)

10.55 Murray Walker's Top Ten The veteran commentator introduces his grand prix heroes (T) (857715)
11.55 The Big Match Tonight's European Cup highlights (901883)
1.00am Off Beat (1986) FILM A librarian is persuaded to replace his cop friend in a song-and-dance spectacular, and continues the charade to woo a fellow performer. Starring Harvey Keitel. Directed by Michael Dinner (116433)
2.35 The Big Match Highlights of Real Madrid v Dynamo Kiev (562384)
4.20 The Making of James and the Giant Peach The film of Roald Dahl's children's book (73811471)
4.50 ITV Nightscreen Behind the scenes of ITV programmes (43287181)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (64094)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except
12.20-12.30pm Central News (7695574)
1.00 Echo Point (64086)
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (6169883)
2.15-2.45 Home and Away (411086)
3.20-3.25 Central News (4120715)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7202609)
6.25-7.00 Central News; Weather (828135)
10.45-10.55 Central News; Weather (132951)
1.00-2.35am FILM: The Super (116433)
4.20 Central Jobfinder '99 (3988278)
5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (3742758)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.15-12.27pm Westcountry News; Weather (4457406)
12.27-12.30 Illuminations (7603593)
1.00 Emmerdale (64086)
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (6169883)
2.15-2.45 Home and Away (411086)
3.20-3.25 Westcountry News; Weather (4120715)
5.08 Birthday People (2765636)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7202609)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (19135)
10.45-10.55 Westcountry News; Weather (132951)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (4457406) **1.00-1.35 Shortland Street** (7224628) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (7202609) **6.00 Meridian Tonight** (T) (51) **6.30-7.00 Country Vets** (3/6) (r) (13) **10.45-10.55 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (132951) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (64094)

ANGLIA

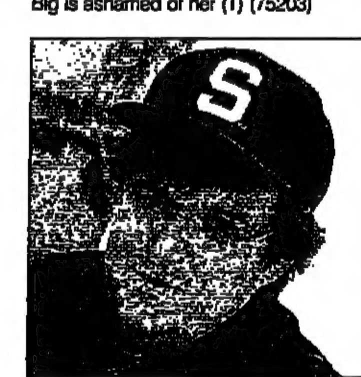
As HTV West except: **12.19pm Anglia Air Watch** (7614609) **12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (7695574) **1.00-1.35 Shortland Street** (7224628) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (7202609) **5.59 Anglia Weather** (T) (603777) **6.00 Anglia News** (T) (51) **6.30-7.00 Whipsnade** (6/13) (T) (13) **10.44 Anglia Air Watch** (159628) **10.45-10.55 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (132951)

S4C

Starts: **6.00am Sesame Street** (r) (88237116) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (67280845) **9.00 Ysgolion:** Science for Today (97431357) **9.30 Rat-A-Tat-Tat** (74461241) **9.45 Book Box** (74466796) **10.00 Stage Two Science** (91214680) **10.15 All About Us** (91204203) **10.30 The French Programme: Channel Hopping** (51932864) **10.50 Stop, Look, Listen** (32610703) **11.00 Yr Amgylchedd** (15377512) **11.15 Tackling Technology** (15367135) **11.30 Powerhouse** (T) (68632425) **12.00pm Bewitched** (r) (T) (97411593) **12.30 Sesame Street** (T) (26246338) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (67283932) **1.30 Earthscape** (T) (92847203) **1.35 FILM: Geordie** (13619721) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (T) (67516116) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (67528951) **4.30 Dishes** (T) (67 524135) **5.00 Planed Plant** (T) (90509661) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (67548715) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (93864048) **6.10 Heno** (T) (86347951) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (90529425) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (67525864) **8.00 Ffermio** (T) (90505845) **8.30 Pacio** (T) (90517680) **9.00 ER** (T) (37776086) **10.00 Brookside** (T) (72081338) **10.35 Sex and the City** (T) (35179241) **11.05 Michael Moore: The Awful Truth** (T) (88892338) **11.35 Mark Thomas Comedy Product** (T) (92665203) **12.05am The Spying Game** (4/6) (T) (69543346) **12.40 Carry on Snogging** (T) (33465471) **1.15 Football Italia: Mezzanotte** (67957471) **3.40 Trans World Sport** (50801617) **4.35 Diwedd**

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (50116)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (52241)
9.00 Schools: Science for Today (94338) **9.30** Rat-A-Tat-Tat (T) (8119135) **9.45** Book Box (T) (8107390) **10.00** Stage Two Science (T) (9321628) **10.15** All About Us (9304951) **10.30** French Programme: Channel Hopping (1968574) **10.50** Stop, Look, Listen (T) (8238845) **11.00** First Edition VI (3528048) **11.15** Tackling Technology (T) (3541999)
11.30 Powerhouse (T) (4154)
12.00pm Sesame Street (T) (74574)
12.30 Bewitched (r) (T) (32086)
1.00 Pet Rescue (T) (62628)
1.30 The Three Stooges The trio leave the Army (r) (T) (37575131)
1.50 Lease of Life (1954) FILM A country vicar struggles to come to terms with the fact that he has only one year left to live. Starring Robert Donat and Kay Walsh. Directed by Charles Frend (T) (75658135)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (39)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (16)
4.30 Countdown (T) (3405086)
4.55 Ricki Lake Provocative dressers receive makeovers (T) (5513777)
5.30 Pet Rescue Two puppies are treated for shyness (T) (80)
6.00 Late Lunch with Mel and Sue TV chef Gary Rhodes joins the bubbly hostesses for a chat and a bite to eat (17777)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (242086)
7.55 The 1999 Citibank Private Bank Photography Prize The work of the Portuguese photographer Augusto Alves Da Silva (T) (140338)
8.00 Brookside Ryan offers Jason an olive branch (T) (6390)
8.30 Doors to Manual New series. Three viewers jet off for a weekend city break — but although their destination is the same, each has a unique personal itinerary. In the first programme, a trio of travellers experience very different short breaks in New York. Presented by Danny O'Brien (1/5) (5425)
9.00 CHOICE **ER** A Hallowe'en party at the medical student dorm ends in disaster (T) (5135)
10.00 Sex and the City Carrie suspects that Mr Big is ashamed of her (T) (75203)



Bizarre tales from the US, introduced by Michael Moore (10.30pm)

10.30 Michael Moore: The Awful Truth Subversive reports from the US, with Michael Moore (T) (84951)
11.00 Mark Thomas Comedy Product Satirical comedy and hoaxes (5406)
11.30 So Graham Norton With Ursula Andress and Julie Hesmondhalgh (r) (140357)
12.10am boardstupid (r) (5607094)
1.15 Football Italia: Mezzanotte Round-up of the week's action (23378094)
3.40 Trans World Sport (r) (9553810)
4.35 Defenders of the Wild A tiger conservation project (r) (T) (9466839)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport With Becky Anderson (1703406)
7.00 WideWorld Part nine. The problem of bullying in schools (r) (T) (8396999)
7.30 Milkshake! (2811425)
7.35 Wimzie's House (r), 5 News Update (4890154)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (2013777)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (r); 5 News Update (2012048)
9.00 Hot Property (r) (T) (6860195)
9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (r) (4672796)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (7130375)
10.20 Sunset Beach Amy fantasises about Sean (T) (3869338)
11.10 Leeza (8369767)
12.00pm 5 News at Noon (T) (2016864)
12.30 Family Affairs Claire apologises for provoking Pete (r) (T) (1494086)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Sheila sees James and Maggie dancing (8388970)
1.30 The Roseanne Show The outspoken comedian chats to the boxer Oscar De La Hoya (r); 5 News Update (1493357)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (9372086)
2.30 Good Afternoon Daily entertainment, featuring word game *Cryptogram*, real-life soap *Liverpool Mums* and antiques quiz *Selling the Family Silver*; 5 News Update (1970574)
3.30 Indict and Convict (TVM 1974) FILM William Shatner stars as a lawyer who defends himself against a charge of murdering his wife and her lovers. With Ed Flanders. Directed by Boris Sagal (4695311)
5.20 Sunset Beach Shown earlier (r) (T), 5 News Update (3943864)
6.00 100 Per Cent Computer-generated quiz (2616067)
6.30 Family Affairs Declan flirts with Siobhan (T) (2607319)
7.00 5 News; Weather Round-up of the day's stories (T) (9343574)
7.30 Nick's Quest Vampire bats attract Nick Baker to the tropical forests of Belize, where the bloodthirsty creatures exist in great numbers (3/8) (T) (2696203)
8.00 Switched at Birth (TVM 1991) FILM Fact-based drama about two Florida babies inadvertently swapped in a hospital maternity unit and raised for ten years by the wrong biological parents. Bonnie Bedelia, John Jackson, Judith Hoag, Brian Kerwin and Ed Asner star. Directed by Lois Smith (T); 5 News Update (87374338)
10.10 Rambo III (1988) FILM Sylvester Stallone heads for Russian-occupied Afghanistan to rescue a friend from prison. Action thriller, with Richard Crenna. Directed by Peter MacDonald (7859680)
12.00am Melinda's Big Night In With guest Neil McAndrew (7913278)
12.40 UK Raw A group of transvestites visit Ascot (3/10) (4688810)
1.10 Live NHL Ice Hockey Richard Orford and Todd Macklin introduce full coverage of the Central Division clash between St Louis Blues and the Chicago Blackhawks (64720520)
4.40 The Movie Chart Show News and reviews (r) (92459029)
5.05 Move On Up (r) (32191181)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (8908433)

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● **For further listings see Saturday's *Vision***

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (94241) **7.30** The Simpsons (80048) **8.00** The Simpsons (20777) **8.30** Hollywood Squares (29048) **9.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (22845) **10.00** Oprah Winfrey (79932) **11.00** Guilty! (99796) **12.00pm** Jenny Jones (44845) **1.00** Mad About You (33512) **1.30** Jeopardy (64609) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (77086) **3.00** Jenny Jones (59303) **4.00** Guilty! (78338) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (1241) **6.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (1715) **6.30** Friends (2067) **7.00** Simpsons (2970) **7.30** Simpsons (1951) **8.00** Mortal Kombat Conquest (89932) **9.00** X Files (59816) **10.00** Miami Uncovered (34503) **11.00** Friends (79067) **11.30** Star Trek: Voyager (53654) **12.30am** The Commish (21452) **1.30** Long Play (6228931)

SKY BOX OFFICE

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SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51)
The Edge (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)
As Good as It Gets (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59)
Good Will Hunting (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58)
Mortal Kombat 2: Annihilation (1997)

FILMFOUR

6.00pm The Train (1965) (12891390) **8.15 The Driver (1978)** (87512319) **10.00 LA Takedown (TVM 1989)** (8571203) **11.40 Le Cercle Rouge (1970)** (30020512) **2.00am Point Break (1991)** (7302453) **4.00 L'Accompagnatrice (1992)** (5929100) **6.00** Close

SKY PREMIER

6.00am Shaughnessy (1996) (96143574) **7.45 Carpool (1996)** (730339) **9.15 Cannonball Fever (1989)** (36038609) **11.00 Burning Secret (1988)** (20852) **1.00pm Little Dorrit (1988)** (829009) **4.00 Shaughnessy (1996)** (4715) **6.00 Carpool (1996)** (30864) **7.30** Barry Norman's Film Night (4661) **8.00 Daylight (1996)** (16086) **10.00 Blood and Wine (1996)** (191067) **11.45 The Crossing Guard (1995)** (233425) **1.40am The Big Man (1990)** (654278) **3.35 Hotel Sorrento (1996)** (44262297)

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.30am Godzilla vs Megalon (1976) (96611) **7.00** Movie Magic: Four Heads Are Better Than One (96609) **7.30** Action Heroes: Tom Cruise (1863970) **8.15** Femmes Fatales: Julia Roberts (2595048) **9.00 Flipper (1996)** (48574) **11.00 And Baby Makes Six (1979)** (20970) **1.00pm** Movie Magic: Four Heads Are Better Than One (86680) **1.30** Femmes Fatales: Julia Roberts (5941512) **2.15** Action Heroes: Tom Cruise (7086203) **3.00 They Won't Believe Me (1947)** (53890) **5.00 And Baby Makes Six (1979)** (39425) **7.00 Flipper (1996)** (49965) **8.30** E! News Week in Review (2533) **9.00 Change of Heart (1998)** (17715) **11.00 Twist of Fate (1998)** (477808) **12.40am Back in Business (1996)** (348339) **2.15 Cover Me (1995)** (7265320) **3.50 Damien: Omen II (1978)** (290278)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm Magic Town (1947) (7496067) **6.00 Jet Pilot (1957)** (3899116) **8.00 Breakout (1975)** (2894661) **10.00 The Towering Inferno (1974)** (73851425) **12.45am Chel (1969)** (2047936) **2.20 Heat and Dust (1983)** (10687655) **4.30 Berlin Express (1948)** (6065365)

TNT

9.00pm The Bad and the Beautiful (1952) (53626135) **11.15 The Ice Pirates (1984)** (74530357) **1.15am Alfred the Great (1969)** (50792704) **3.30 Battle Beneath the Earth (1967)** (82774655) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre **7.15** Wrestling **8.15** You're On Sky Sports! **9.00** Racing News **9.30** Aerobics **10.00** Inside Scottish Football **11.00** Max Power **12.00pm** Aerobics **12.30** Premier Snooker League **2.30** Fastrax **3.00** Inside Scottish Football **4.00** Superbouts **5.00** Wrestling **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** Unbelievable Sports **7.00** World Pool **8.00** Ringside **9.30** Unbelievable Sports **10.00** Sports Centre **10.15** You're On Sky Sports! **11.00** World Pool **12.00am** Sports Centre **12.15** You're On Sky Sports! **1.00** Rugby League **2.30** World Pool **3.30** Sports Centre **3.45** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics Oz Style **7.30** Sports Centre **7.45** Racing News **8.15** Fastrax **8.45** Sports Centre **9.00** Fish TV **10.00** Sports Unlimited **11.00** Women's Golf **1.00pm** Golf Extra **4.00** Snowboarding **4.30** Moto Cross **5.30** Australian Rally Championship **6.00** Watersports World **7.00** Golf Extra **10.00** Watersports World **11.00** Cycling **11.30** Ringside **1.00am** Australian Rally Championship **1.30** Unbelievable Sports **2.00** Sports Centre **2.15** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm World Wrestling Federation Shotgun **1.00** Fish TV **2.00** The Entertainers **2.30** Boxing Superbouts **3.30** Powerboat and Jetsport World **4.00** Ice Skating **5.30** European Tour Golf Weekly **6.00** Cycling **6.30** Fish TV **7.30** Australian Rally Championship **8.00** Rugby League World **9.30** Australian Rally Championship **10.00** FA Cup Final Classics **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

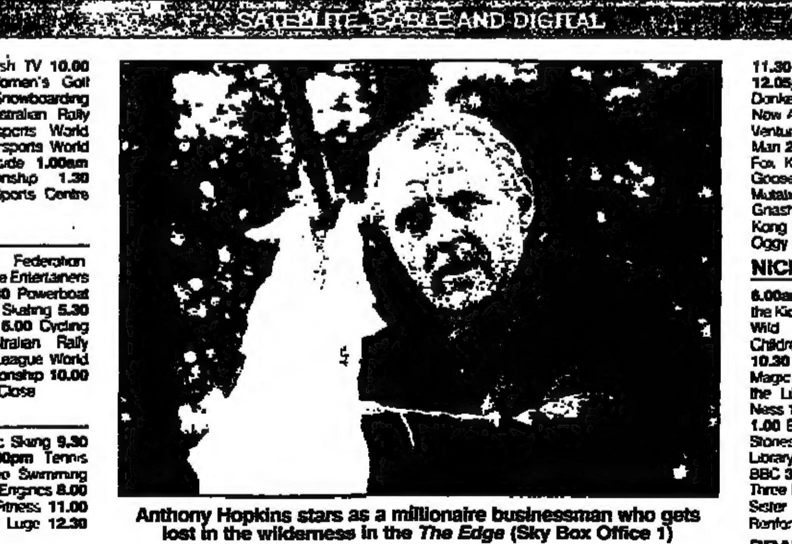
7.30am Athletics **8.30** Nordic Skiing **9.30** Football **11.00** Football **1.00pm** Tennis **1.30** Nordic Skiing **3.00** Live Swimming **5.00** Football **7.00** Start Your Engines **8.00** Sumo **9.00** Dancing **10.00** Fitness **11.00** Start Your Engines **12.00am** Luge **12.30** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.00** The Bill **9.30** When the Boat Comes In **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Juliet Bravo **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.25** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** 2point4 Children **7.40** Dad's Army **8.20** The Brittas Empire **9.00** Men Behaving Badly **9.40** Men Behaving Badly **10.20** Only Fools and Horses **11.55** The Bill **12.25am** The Bill **12.55** Dangerfield **1.50** Dangerfield **2.45** Shopping with Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Within These Walls **7.00** Holding the Fort **7.30** Doctor At Large **8.00** Hallelujah **8.30** The Many Wives of Patrick **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **11.00** The Gentle Touch **12.00pm** Classic Coronation Street **12.30** Emmerdale Farm **1.00** The Many Wives of Patrick **1.30** Me and My Girl **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Professionals **5.00** Hart to Hart **6.00** Emmerdale Farm **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** The Professionals **8.00** The Benny Hill Show **9.00** The Sweeney **10.00** The Brian Conley Show **10.30** Wheeltappers and Shunters' Social Club **11.00** Granada Men and Motors



Anthony Hopkins stars as a millionaire businessman who gets lost in the wilderness in the *The Edge* (Sky Box Office 1)

CARLTON SELECT

5.00pm What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** London Bridge **6.30** Our House **7.00** Boon **8.00** Men of the World **8.30** Superchefs **9.00** Head Over Heels **10.00** Soldier, Soldier **11.00** Hill Street Blues **12.00am** Us and Them **12.30** Gridlock **1.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Gummi Bears **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Tale Spin **7.00** Classic Toons **7.10** Aladdin **7.35** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Goof Troop **8.25** Classic Toons **8.45** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **9.00** The Adventures of Spot **9.05** Animal Shelf **9.15** Pocket Dragons **9.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **9.55** The Toothbrush Family **10.00** Bite Size **10.10** Rosie and Jim **10.30** The Big Garage **10.45** PB and J Otter **11.00** Sesame Street **12.00pm** The Adventures of Spot **12.05** Animal Shelf **12.15** Pocket Dragons **12.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **12.55** The Toothbrush Family **1.00** Bite Size **1.10** Rosie and Jim **1.30** The Big Garage **1.45** PB and J Otter **2.00** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.30** Quack Pack **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules: The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00 FILM: Bad Baby (1996)** **8.20** Honey I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show **9.05** Dinosaurs **10.00** Home Improvement **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Touched by an Angel **12.00am** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Adventures of Dodo **6.05** Power Rangers Turbo **6.30** Power Rangers Turbo **6.55** Spiderman **7.20** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.30** Donkey Kong Country **8.00** Hero Turtles: The Next Mutation **8.25** The Incredible Hulk **8.50** Iron Man **9.15** Fantastic Four **9.40** X-Men **10.05** Casper **10.30** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.55** Eek!Stravaganza **11.05** Bobby's World **11.30** Life with Louie **11.55** Home to Rent **12.05pm** Dennis and Gnasher **12.30** Donkey Kong Country **1.00** Mowgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book **1.25** Ace Ventura **1.55** The Incredible Hulk **2.20** Iron Man **2.45** Fantastic Four **3.10** X-Men **3.30** Fox Kids X-Press **3.35** Spiderman **4.00** Goosebumps **4.25** Hero Turtles: The Next Mutation **4.50** Casper **5.00** Dennis and Gnasher **5.30** Ace Ventura **6.00** Donkey Kong Country **6.30** Eek!Stravaganza **6.55** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Rocko's Modern Life **6.30** Bruno the Kid **7.00** CatDog **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** The Wild Thornberrys **8.30** Arthur **9.00** Children's BBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Papa Beaver Stories **11.00** The Magic School Bus **11.30** PB Bear/Budgie the Little Helicopter/Animal Antics/Family Ness **12.00pm** Rugrats **12.30** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Little Bear Stories **2.00** Paddington Bear/Lizzie's Library/Portland Bill/Mr Men **2.30** Children's BBC **3.00** Children's BBC **3.30** Doug **4.00** Three Friends and Jerry **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Renford Rejects **6.30** Moesha **7.00** Close

BRAVO

8.00pm Martial Law **9.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **9.30** Cops **10.00** The Late Lounge **10.30** Erotic Confessions **11.00 FILM: Adventures of a Taxi Driver (1976)** **1.00am** Erotic Confessions **1.30** Late Lounge **2.00** Martial Law **3.00 FILM: LA Bounty (1989)** **5.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **5.30** Cops **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Jenny **7.30** Grace Under Fire **8.00** Ellen **8.30** Spin City **9.00** Drop the Dead Donkey **9.30** Whose Line Is It Anyway? **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Seinfeld **11.30** The Larry Sanders Show **12.00am** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00** Taxi **1.30** Frontline **2.00** Dr Katz **2.30** Fibs and Fibs **3.00** Nightstand **3.30** Abbot and Costello **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Battlestar Galactica **10.00** Quantum Leap **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** The Ray Bradbury Theatre **12.00pm** The Twilight Zone **12.30** The Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Battlestar Galactica **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Time Trax **7.00** Quantum Leap **8.00** VR5 **9.00** Lexx **10.00 FILM: Escape from New York (1981)** **12.00am** PSI Factor: Chronicles of the Paranormal **1.00 FILM: Monolith (1993)** **3.00** The Twilight Zone **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Today's Gourmet **6.30** Graham Kerr **7.00** Room Service **7.30** The Painted House **8.00** Wedding Story **8.30** A Baby Story **9.00** Simply Painting **9.30** Potted History with Antony Henn **10.00** Real Gardens **10.30** Cookabout with Greg and Max **11.00** The Oceman **11.25** The Home and Leisure House **11.30** Fishing Australia **12.00pm** Our House Down Under **12.30** Antiques Trail **1.00** Our House **1.30** Hometime **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Go Fishing

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** Walker's World **5.00** Time Travellers **5.30** Terra X **6.00** Wildlife SOS **6.30** Adventures of the Quest **7.30** The Quest **8.00** Arthur C Clarke's Mysterious Universe **8.30** Creatures Fantastic **9.00** Searching for Lost Worlds **10.00** On the Trail of the New Testament **11.00** Navy SEALs: The Silent Option **12.00am** The Curse of Tutankhamen **1.00** Terra X **1.30** Time Travellers **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00pm The New Adventures of Black Beauty **12.30** Hollywood Safari **1.00** Crocodile Hunter **2.00** All-Bird TV **2.30** Human/Nature **3.30** Harry's Practice **4.00** Jack Hanna's Zoo Life **4.30** Animal Doctor **5.00** Pet Rescue **5.30** Crocodile Hunter **6.00** The New Adventures of Black Beauty **6.30** Lassie **7.00** Rediscovery of the World **8.00** Animal Doctor **8.30** Horse Tales **9.00** Going Wild **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** Crocodile Hunter **11.00** Wildlife ER **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00am** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Spunky Monkey **7.30** New Orleans Brass **8.00** The Wild Boars **9.00** The Amazon Warrior **10.00** Hitchhiking Vietnam: Letters from the Trail **11.00** On the Edge: Deep Diving **11.30** Deep into the Labyrinth **12.00am** Extreme Earth: Icebound — 100 Years of Antarctic Discovery

HISTORY

4.00pm Clash of Wings: Hitler's Biggest Gamble **5.00** Classic Cars: Tucker **6.00** The Knights Templar **7.00** Stealth Technology

CARLTON FOOD

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **10.00** From the Ground Up **10.30** Alive and Cooking **11.00** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.30** A Slice of the Action **12.00pm** Food Network Daily **12.30** Scotland's Larder **1.00** Coxon's Kitchen College **1.30** The Cookshop **2.00** Mridula's Indian Kitchen **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Loyd's Louisiana **3.30** A Slice of the Action **4.00** Thoroughly Modern British **4.30** Chez Bruno **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny and Crew **6.20** Ten Plus Two **6.40** Philbert the Frog **6.45** Greedysaurus **6.50** Polka Dot Shorts **7.00** Practical Parenting **7.05** Professor Bubble **7.30** Caillou **7.35** Bug Alert **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** Babaloos **8.30** Tiny Tales **8.35** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Can't Cook, Won't Cook **9.30** Roseanne Show **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Animal Rescue **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Special Babies **1.40** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **2.10** LA Law **3.10** Living Room **4.00** Michael Cole **4.50** Rolonda **5.40** Ready, Steady, Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.00** Adrenalin Junkies **9.00 FILM: Family Rescue (TVM 1995)** **11.00** Sex Life Down Under **12.00am** Close

ZEE TV

5.00am Lolly Pop **5.30** Hey Ha Ho **6.00** Out and About **6.30** Yoodle-Ae-Oo **7.00** Faith: Christian **7.30** News **8.00** Business **8.30** Tara **9.00** Rishtey: The Love Stories **10.00** Sofia **11.00** Aashiana **11.30** Parampara **12.00pm FILM** **3.00** Zee Bangla **3.30** Hum Paanch **4.00** Akbar Birbal **4.30** Ek Minute **5.00** Jungle Book **5.30** Kaasan **6.00** Top of the Tops **6.30** Banegi Apni Baat **7.00** Baal Ban Jaye **7.30** It's My Choice **8.00** News **8.30** Amanat **9.00** Urdu: Budh Ke Budhu **10.00** Ike Pe Ikka **10.30** Woh **11.00** Purukshetra **12.00am** News **12.30** Tandoon Masala **1.00** Bangla TV **1.30** Parmarthan **2.00 FILM** **4.30** Narsayo



MOTOR RACING 37
Public outcry drives McLaren team into a corner

SPORT

ATHLETICS 38
Jackson seeks justice as he takes on the hired gunmen



WEDNESDAY MARCH 3 1999

United manager laughs off Italian pessimism on eve of European Cup quarter-final

Ferguson sees through smokescreen

By Oliver Holt, football correspondent

THE ghost of Machiavelli and the spirit of Scarpia cavorted together on stage at Manchester United's Theatre of Dreams yesterday as Alex Ferguson prepared to repel the latest threat to his dream of winning the European Cup by placing Internazionale in the pantheon of Italian villainy.

The United manager seethed with suspicion and mistrust, refusing to believe that Ronaldo had been ruled out of the first leg of the quarter-final tonight and painting the *Nerazzurri* as some sort of sinister "throwback" to a dark age of Italian football, when cynicism and caution reigned.

So convinced was he of the conspiratorial tendencies of the Milanese, in fact, that he gave the impression he would not be surprised to see them take the field with long daggers concealed beneath their togas and "friend of Caesar" printed in the space where the club badge should be.

Of course, the question of Ronaldo's involvement kept bobbing back to the surface. Ferguson said that he believed it would contravene Uefa regulations if he flew into England today and then played, but it emerged later that the Brazilian only has to appear at Old Trafford an hour before the kick-off to be eligible to take the field.

His reputation is such that his presence, or absence, dominates everything, but if the World Cup final last summer taught us one lesson, it is that Ronaldo is only a danger if he *is fully fit. He is clearly still* some way from being that, so, whether he plays or not, United have nothing to fear if they stay strong psychologically.

"I'm not convinced that Ronaldo won't play," Ferguson said. "The Italians are the innovators of the smokescreen. When they tell me it's pasta, I still check under the sauce to make sure it is.

"They always come out with these things. 'The English are so strong, we are so terrible in the air, they are wonderful and we cannot do this and we cannot do that.' And then they come and beat us 3-0.

"I will wait to see their team. I think they want Ronaldo to play, but it is down to him and his doctor whether he does. I *hear he* is coming over on a private jet with their owner, Massimo Moratti. Well, I hope Moratti's playing."

The tone of Ferguson's address, which was not without its nods, winks and smiles, had much to do with a determination to ensure that no hint of complacency contaminates his team in the wake of the reports of the troubles that have beset Inter in Serie A.

FA charges Le Saux.........38
O'Leary looks ahead........38
Hard times at Palace.......38

The Italians, languishing in sixth in their domestic league, have won only twice away from home all season and that against the comparative lightweights of Empoli and Udinese. They have scored only once away this year. Their home performance in the goalless draw against Juventus on Saturday night was the very antithesis of flowing football, a disjointed, uncertain affair that betrayed their lack of con*viction and reliance on Ron*aldo for attacking sharpness.

In comparison, United are flying high in the FA Carling Premiership, four points clear of the rest and with eight wins and two draws in their past ten league games. On form, with Andy Cole and Dwight Yorke frightening the best defences, they should be clear winners, but Ferguson was quick to drag his listeners out of their fool's paradise.

"Inter are a throwback to the Italian mentality of not giving anything away and man-marking with a sweeper," Ferguson said. "The AC Milan team of Rijkaard, Van Basten, Baresi and Maldini brought a freshness to Italian football in the late Eighties *and a different vision* by playing 4-4-2.

"Juventus then took that on with a 4-3-3 system and the way they operated with Del Piero meant they had that fantastic, open, aggressive type of play. But Inter are a throwback to the old *catenaccio* style of giving nothing away and hoping to catch you in a weak moment. They will stick rigidly to their jobs, particularly the marking defenders, and they will be disciplined in the centre of midfield."

"I don't pay too much attention to their form in the Italian league. They will be motivated for this game because it is their only chance of an honour. They can go for one trophy and forget everything else. It is not like England, where every team feels they have to try to win everything. Their mentality at Old Trafford will be that they are hard to beat. I will be happy with 1-0."

This time, United have the players and the experience to succeed, however canny and clever Inter might be. They are *on top of their game and* Yorke and Cole have proved already that they can translate their league form into goals against Europe's elite. Their ability to maintain their concentration without the *slightest lapse for 90 minutes* would be the key, according to Ferguson.

Inter's attack is not the same without Ronaldo, but Jaap Stam has grown steadily in stature since his arrival in England and should not be discomforted by Ivan Zamorano. The danger will come from the floating Roberto Baggio and Youri Djorkaeff. Roy Keane, as well as the United back four, will have to be on his mettle to snuff them out.

Then there is the confrontation between David Beckham and Diego Simeone, the Argentinian who admitted his contribution this week to the dismissal of Beckham during the World Cup. Ferguson paid him little heed. By then, he had had his fill of villainy.

PAUL COUSINS



Zamorano is greeted by the traditional Manchester welcome from the elements as Internazionale arrive in a rain-soaked England yesterday

Simeone makes himself easy target

Matt Dickinson predicts that Internazionale will attempt to disrupt United's rhythm in midfield

Ronaldo continued to prove elusive yester*day, but there was* never much chance of Diego Simeone slipping into Manchester unnoticed. Not when there was a Mr Blobby figure to attack him in airport arrivals, a foretaste of the incessant scorn that he will greet his every touch at Old Trafford tonight.

The jeering of Simeone is the only certainty of an intriguing match, but those United fans who are hoping to rile the Internazionale midfield player into blowing a gasket — as David Beckham did in the face of the Argentinian's provocation during the World Cup — are likely to be disappointed.

"Simeone is not a child," Mircea Lucescu, the Inter coach, said, "and when the public are against him, he plays three times better." The paying public will be against him as never before after his admission that he tricked the referee into dismissing Beckham during England's match against Argentina in France last June. His talent for disruption is likely to make him less popular with every tackle in what can be expected to be a fiesty midfield confrontation with Roy Keane.

An expert at the niggling foul and distracting opponents from the task in hand, Simeone's gifts appear to be perfectly suited to Inter's plan, which is to try to keep the match as cagey and lacking in fluency as possible.

Giuseppe Bergomi, their 36-year-old defender, talked yesterday of the huge boost that the Serie A side would gain from Ronaldo's return for the second leg and the obvious sub-text was that they would attempt a stifling draw tonight to set up the Brazilian for a hero's comeback in Milan.

That will not be easy against a team of United's attacking power, especially with Simic, the Croatia defender, ineligible. Inter have conceded only five goals so far in the European Cup this season, however, the best defensive record in the competition, and appear to be unfazed by the prospect of Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole in harness.

"They are good," Bergomi said, "but the best in Europe? Oh no." Inter are more preoccupied with the threat from the flanks, where Zanetti and Winter have had their problems as wing backs and can expect to be tested to the full by Giggs's pace and Beckham's whipped crosses.

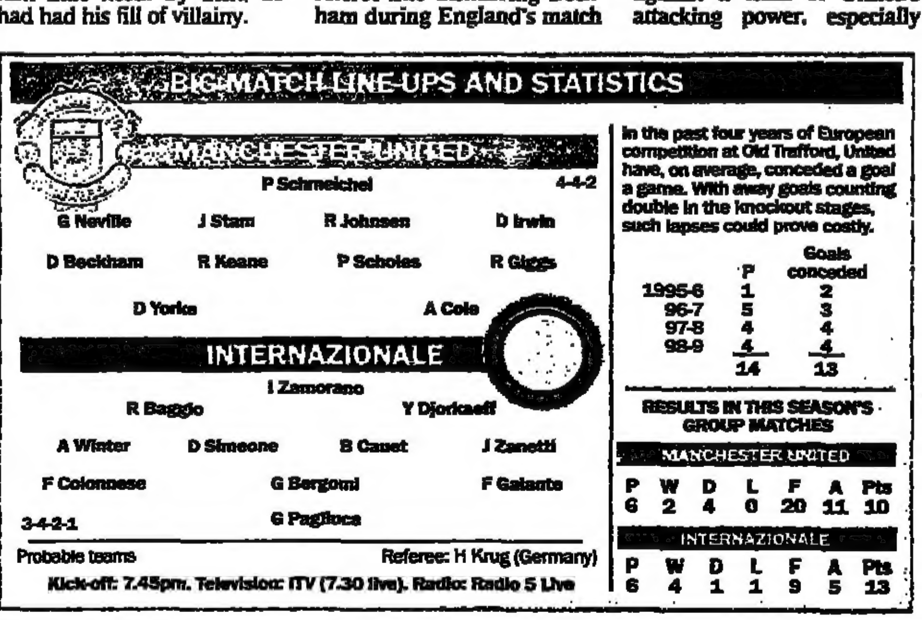
That Inter are not in good shape is beyond doubt. Lying sixth in Serie A, they have won only three of nine games this year and Lucescu does not even try to deny that he had had disputes with his players. "In a championship like the Italian one, played with the highest intensity of all, there are always moments of tension," he said.

Wrangling, though, does not suddenly remove the match-winning potential of Roberto Baggio or Ivan Zamorano, forwards of the highest calibre, and United would do well to remember that they secured fewer points in qualifying for the quarter-finals than their opponents.

Moreover, United have yet to eliminate an Italian side in Europe. This may be as good a time as any to put that right, given that the absence of Ronaldo has affected Inter's morale as much as their attacking power.

"We all know it is different football without him," Lucescu said. "In England, the game is collective, but in Italy it is more to do with the personalities of the significant players. You build teams around big players. So for us it is very important when a player like that is not there. My team will have to double their efforts."

United will be confident that even that may not prove enough. History, though, suggests otherwise.



BIG MATCH LINE-UPS AND STATISTICS

MANCHESTER UNITED — 4-4-2

P Schmeichel
G Neville, J Stam, R Johnsen, D Irwin
D Beckham, R Keane, P Scholes, R Giggs
D Yorke, A Cole

INTERNAZIONALE — 3-4-2-1

I Zamorano
R Baggio, Y Djorkaeff
A Winter, D Simeone, B Cauet, J Zanetti
F Colonnese, G Bergomi, F Galante
G Pagliuca

Probable teams — Referee: H Krug (Germany)

Kick-off: 7.45pm. Television: ITV (7.30 live). Radio: Radio 5 Live

In the past four years of European competition at Old Trafford, United have, on average, conceded a goal a game. With away goals counting double in the knockout stages, such lapses could prove costly.

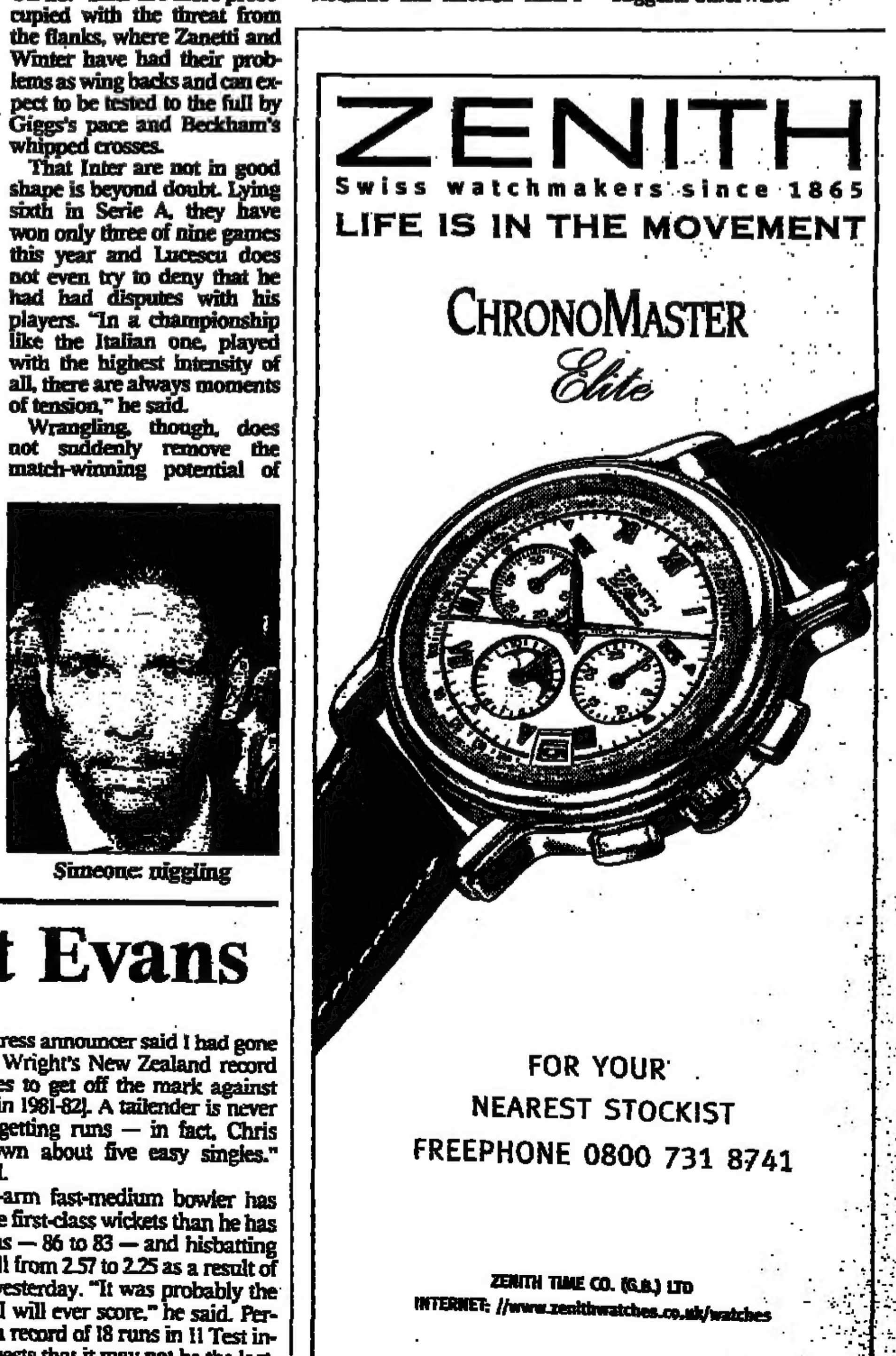
	P	Goals conceded
1995-6	1	2
96-7	5	3
97-8	4	4
98-9	4	4
	14	13

RESULTS IN THIS SEASON'S GROUP MATCHES

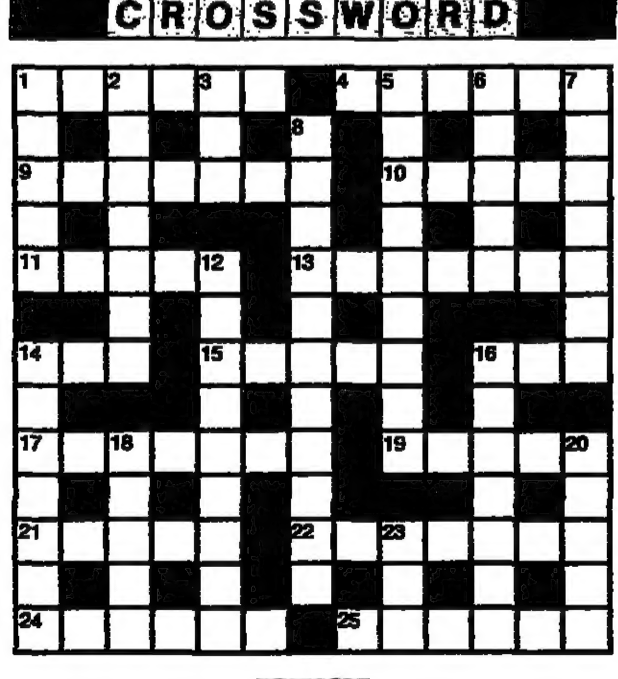
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MANCHESTER UNITED	6	2	4	0	20	11	10
INTERNAZIONALE	6	4	1	1	9	5	13



Simeone: niggling



TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1655

ACROSS
1 Gambling house (6)
4 Pictures; likenesses (6)
9 Gale: empty talk (7)
10 Damascus its capital (5)
11 Made smooth; tilted at angle (5)
13 Able to pay; one abused by glue-sniffers (7)
14 Drink (eg ale) (3)
15 Put forward (postulate) (5)
16 Electrically-charged atom (3)
17 Cooked rice dish (7)
19 Upright (5)
21 Ninth planet out (5)
22 To cheat, fool (7)
24 Flooding rain (6)
25 Extend; feast (6)

DOWN
1 Pole (for tossing) (5)
2 Posted (5.2): snooty (5-2)
3 (Cricket) practice (3)
5 White-berried parasite (9)
6 Ravine; eat hugely (5)
7 Unluxurious (7)
8 Argue, fight (with) (5,6)
12 Two-vowel syllable (9)
14 Marked with bands (7)
16 List in detail (7)
18 Oar: sounds like *head bone* (5)
20 Tyre rubber depth: walk on (5)
23 Drinking vessel (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1654
ACROSS: 1 Salami tactics 8 Occiput 9 Alien 10 Ban 11 Demiurge 13 Averse 14 Vandal 17 Adorable 19 Mug 21 Envoi 22 Endorse 24 Put one's feet up
DOWN: 1 Show Boat 2 Licence 3 Map 4 Tatami 5 Coagulate 6 Icing 7 Sink 11 Desertion 12 Slag heap 15 Demerit 16 Obsess 18 Divot 20 Hemp 23 Dee

Allott blocks his way past Evans

By Richard Hobson

TO DESCRIBE a cricketing duck as valuable appears to be a contradiction in terms, but in Auckland yesterday Geoff Allott could claim to have been responsible for one of the most important noughts in the game's history.

Allott, a natural No 11, who was playing for New Zealand against South Africa in the first Test, failed to score in 101 minutes at the crease and thus surpassed the stoical effort of Godfrey Evans, the England wicketkeeper, who required 97 minutes to get off the mark against Australia in Adelaide in 1947.

Whereas Evans went on to reach ten without being dismissed, Allott failed to open his account. Having acknowledged each blocked delivery with a raised bat as he neared the record and enjoying a standing ovation when he broke it, he finally gloved a delivery from Jacques Kallis to Shaun Pollock at slip.

"Even the South Africans were laughing towards the end," Allott said. He faced 77 balls and helped Chris Harris to add 32 runs for the last wicket.

It was an innings that won valuable time for his side, who still need 265 to avoid an innings defeat with all their second-innings wickets in hand and one day to play.

"I had no idea about the record until the public address announcer said I had gone past John Wright's New Zealand record [66 minutes to get off the mark against Australia in 1981-82]. A tailender is never afraid of getting runs — in fact, Chris turned down about five easy singles," Allott, said.

The left-arm fast-medium bowler has taken more first-class wickets than he has scored runs — 86 to 83 — and hisbatting average fell from 2.57 to 2.25 as a result of his effort yesterday. "It was probably the best duck I will ever score," he said. Perhaps, but a record of 18 runs in 11 Test innings suggests that it may not be the last.

Scoreboard, page 37